OSCAR COOVER

FELIX MORROW

FARRELL DOBBS

VINCENT R. DUNNE

JAMES P. CANNON

ALBERT GOLDMAN

DR. GRACE CARLSON

CARL SKOGLUND

ALFRED RUSSEL

OSCAR SHOENFEL

Labor Organizations Representing

3,000,000

WORKERS DEMAND

FREEDOM

for these 18 CIO and

SOCIALIST WORKERS PARTY

LEADERS IMPRISONED

under the anti-labor

SMITH "GAG" ACT

KARL KUEHN

CARLOS HUDSON

EMIL HANSEN

CLARENCE HAME

EDWARD PALMQUIST

HARRY DEBOER

JAKE COOPER

MAX GELDMAN

Some of the Trade Unions and Councils Which, Recognizing the Vital Importance of the Minneapolis Labor Case to the Entire Labor Movement and to the Cause of Civil Liberties, Are Backing Our Campaign to Free the 18 and Repeal the Smith "Gag" Act.

UNITED AUTOMOBILE WORKERS OF AMERICA — CIO

Local #3, Detroit, Mich.
Local #15, Detroit, Mich.
Local #45, Cleveland, Ohio
Local #50, Detroit, Mich.
Local #51, Detroit, Mich.
Local #82, Racine, Wisc.
Local #88, Cleveland, Ohio
Local #102, Eau Claire, Wis.
Local #203, Detroit, Mich.
Local #212, Detroit, Mich.
Local #260, Newark, N. J.
Local #262, Detroit, Mich.
Local #263, Cleveland, Ohio
Local #365, New York, N. Y.
Local #398, Torrington, Conn.
Local #407, Milwaukee, Wisc.
Local #410, Detroit, Mich.
Local #425, Buffalo, N. Y.
Local #486, Cleveland, Ohio
Local #490, Highland Park, Mich.
Local #501, Buffalo, N. Y.
Local #511, Newark, N. J.
Local #560, El Cerrito, Cal.
Local #578, Oshkosh, Wisc.
Local #594, Pontiac, Mich.
Local #647, Reading, Ohio
Local #662, Anderson, Ind.
Local #663, Anderson, Ind.
Local #666, Jackson, Mich.
Local #672, Trenton, N. J.
Local #764, Elkhart, Ind.
Local #805, Chicago, Ill.
Local #836, Saginaw, Mich.
Local #837, Elkhart, Ind.
Local #854, Syracuse, N. Y.
UAW District Council #11, Buffalo, N. Y.

UNITED STEEL WORKERS OF AMERICA — CIO

Local #1060, Buffalo, N. Y.
Local #1330, Youngstown, Ohio
Local #1339, Jersey City, N. J.
Local #1486, New Haven, Conn.
Local #1743, Buffalo, N. Y.
Local #1753, Buffalo, N. Y.
Local #1833, Newark, N. J.
Local #1845, Huntington Park, Cal.
Local #2017, Buffalo, N. Y.
Local #2106, Roseland, N. J.
Local #2111, Trenton, N. J.
Local #2141, New Haven, Conn.
Local #2715, Reading, Pa.
Local #2719, Reading, Pa.

UNITED RUBBER WORKERS OF AMERICA — CIO

Local #5, Akron, Ohio
Local #69, Trenton, N. J.
Local #107, Trenton, N. J.
Local #182, Rahway, N. J.
Local #187, Newark, N. J.
Local #205, Trenton, N. J.

INDUSTRIAL UNION OF MARINE & SHIPBUILDING WORKERS — CIO

Local # 9, Los Angeles, Cal.
Local #13, Staten Island, N. Y.
Local #15, Hoboken, N. J.
Local #42, Philadelphia, Pa.
Local #44, Bayonne, N. J.
Local #49, Bay City, Mich.

AMALGAMATED CLOTHING WORKERS OF AMERICA — CIO

Laundry Workers Joint Board, ACWA, NYC
Local # 1, New York, N. Y.
Local # 3, Denver, Colo.
Local #24, Newark, N. J.
Local #169, New York, N. Y.
Local #195, Newark, N. J.
Local #198, Passaic, N. J.
National Executive Council, Textile Workers Union, N. Y. C.
Textile Workers Local #26, Freehold, N. J.
Textile Workers Local #87, Paterson, N. J.
Textile Workers Local #277, Newark, N. J.
Textile Workers Local #356, Newark, N. J.
Hosiery Workers #49, Irvington, N. J.
Dyers & Finishers #1932, Passaic, N. J.

OTHER CIO UNIONS

St. Louis Joint Advisory Council, St. Louis, Mo.
Bridgeport Industrial Union Council, Bridgeport, Conn.
San Francisco Industrial Union Council, San Francisco, Cal.
United Transport Service Employees of America, Chicago, Ill.
CIO Council No. 2, Bucks County, Quakertown, Pa.
Worcester Industrial Union Council, Worcester, Mass.
Oregon State Industrial Union Council, Portland, Ore.
N. J. State Industrial Union Council, Newark, N. J.
UE Radio & Machine Workers #203, Bridgeport, Conn.
UE Radio & Machine Workers #301, Schenectady, N. Y.
UE Radio & Machine Workers #402, Newark, N. J.
UE Radio & Machine Workers #426, Newark, N. J.
Int. Longshore. & Warehousemen's #1-10, San Francisco, Cal.
Int. Longshore. & Warehousemen's #1-13, San Pedro, Cal.
Int. Longshore. & Warehousemen's #1-29, San Diego, Cal.
Packinghouse Workers Org. Comm., South St. Paul, Minn.
Packinghouse Workers Org. Comm., Chicago, Ill.
United Packinghouse Workers of Am., #15, Kansas City, Kans.
Int. Union Mine Mill & Smelter Workers, #366, Irvington, N. J.
Int. Union Mine Mill & Smelter Workers, # 462, Irvington, N. J.
Oil Workers Union #337, Linden, N. J.
Oil Workers Union #397, Cartaret, N. J.
Int. Woodworkers of America, #2-9, Tacoma, Wash.
Int. Woodworkers of America, #29, Portola, Calif.
Int. Woodworkers of America, #9-213, Willamina, Ore.
Plaything & Novelty Workers of America, #433, Bridgeport, Conn.
Doll & Toyworkers Industrial Union, #226, Trenton, N. J.
United Retail, Wholesale & Dept. Store Empl., N. Y. C.
United Retail, Wholesale & Dept. Store Empl. # 108, Newark, N. J.
United Shoe Workers Joint Council #13, N. Y.
United Shoe Workers of America, #56-A, St. Louis, Mo.
Aluminum Workers of America, #4, Chicago, Ill.
Fur Workers Union, #30, Boston, Mass.
Fed. of G. C. S. & S., Newton Tile, #75, Newark, N. J.
State, County & Municipal Workers of Am., #277, Newark, N. J.
United Transport Service Empl. of Am., #706, Boston, Mass.
Wood, Wire & Metal Lathers Union #190, Minneapolis, Minn.
United Furniture Workers #262, San Francisco, Cal.

AFL UNIONS

Joint Board of Dress & Waistmakers Union of Greater New York, Locals #10, #22, #60, #89.
Baltimore Joint Board of the ILGWU, Baltimore, Md.
ILGWU #13, Boonton, N. J.
ILGWU #25, New York, N. Y.
ILGWU #66, New York, N. Y.
ILGWU, Local #76, Chicago, Ill.
ILGWU #155, Brooklyn, N. Y.
ILGWU #160, Bayonne, N. J.
Millinery Workers Union #24, N. Y. C.
Millinery Workers Union Local #40, San Francisco, Cal.
Boilermakers Local #104, Seattle, Wash.
Amalgamated Lithographers of America, Women's Aux., N.Y.C.
Amalgamated Lithographers of America #1, New York City
Waiters & Waitresses Union #1, New York City
Int. Assn. of Machinists, Lodge #68, San Francisco, Cal.
Broth. of Painters, Decorators & Paperhangers #1309, Reading, Pa.
Broth. of Painters, Decorators & Paperhangers #442, New York City
Broth. of Painters, Decorators & Paperhangers #261, New York City
Brotherhood of Railway Carmen of Amer., #652, Reading, Pa.
Suit Case, Bag & Portfolio Makers, #60, New York City
Gas By-Products Coke Workers #12065, Edgewater, N. J.

INDEPENDENT UNIONS

Mechanics Educational Society of America, Detroit, Mich.
Rochester Railroad Council, Rochester, N. Y.
Toledo Area Railroad Council, Toledo, O.
United Mine Workers of America #12160, West Haven, Conn.
United Construction Workers #73, Gary, Ind.
United Construction Workers #1244, Portland, Ore.
Newark Typographical Union, #103, Newark, N. J.
Railroad Br. of Locomotive Firemen & Eng., #143, Oakland, Cal.
Marine, Firemen, Oilers, Watertenders & Wipers, San Pedro, Cal.
Brewers Union #2, Newark N. J.
Brewers Union #4, Buffalo, N. Y.
Brewers #7, San Francisco, Cal.
Brewers Union #18, Chicago, Ill.
Brewers #148, Newark, N. J.
Brewers #205, Minneapolis, Minn.

I'LL HELP IN THE FIGHT!

JAMES T. FARRELL, Chairman
Civil Rights Defense Committee
100 Fifth Ave., N. Y. 11, N. Y.

Here is my contribution of $_____ for the MINNEAPOLIS PRISONERS PARDON & RELIEF FUND.

Name _____

Address _____

City & State _____

☐ I am writing to the President asking for a full pardon.

JAMES T. FARRELL
Chairman
JOHN DOS PASSOS
Vice-Chairman

CIVIL RIGHTS DEFENSE COMMITTEE
160 Fifth Avenue, New York City

CARLO TRESCA
Vice-Chairman
GEORGE NOVACK
Secretary

American Civil Liberties Union Blasts Federal Indictment of 29

Tells Biddle That National Administration Is Using Law Improperly As Favor to Tobin—Charges Indictment Is Based on Statutes Which Are Unconstitutional—Will Engage in Defense, Carry Case to Supreme Court If Necessary

Below is the letter written by the American Civil Liberties Union, 22-year-old organization devoted to the defense of civil liberties in America, to Attorney General Francis Biddle, setting forth the conclusions of the Civil Liberties Union on the federal indictment manipulated by AFL Teamsters President Tobin and by President Roosevelt against 16 leaders and active members of Local 544-CIO and 13 leaders of the Socialist Workers Party.

Attorney General Biddle has announced that, in spite of the findings of the ACLU, the government will go ahead with its prosecution of the 29.

The text of the letter to Biddle follows:

Hon. Francis Biddle
Acting Attorney-General
Department of Justice
Washington, D. C.
Dear Mr. Attorney-General:

The indictment of twenty-nine persons in Minneapolis, allegedly members of the Socialist Workers Party, raises important issues of civil liberty. The indictments charge a conspiracy to (1) overthrow the United States government by force and violence; (2) spread disaffection among the armed forces; (3) engage in private military training with arms for the purpose of overthrowing the government.

All of the charges in the indictment except one deal with utterances or publications whose intent is construed to constitute the offenses. The only overt act charged is the formation of a workers defense corps by members of the Teamsters Union in Minneapolis in 1938.

Findings of ACLU

The American Civil Liberties Union has examined the character of the evidence on which the indictment rests and has come to these conclusions:

1. That the charges clearly raise issues of civil liberties in attacking utterances or publications in the absence of any overt acts or even of any "clear and present danger" with the sole exception of the charge concerning the organization of the workers defense corps.

2. That the facts in regard to the workers defense corps show that there was no intent of the Teamsters Union, which was admittedly under the leadership of members of the Socialist Workers Party, to do more than protect union property against threats of vigilante violence. Its activities were entirely public and covered only the few months when apprehension of attack was acute.

3. That the indictments rest upon two new statutes not previously applied, both of them having been incorporated in the Alien Registration Act of 1940—one of them penalizing advocacy of the overthrow of government by force, and the other the incitement of disaffection in the armed forces. In our judgment both statutes violate the First Amendment of the Constitution; and even if upheld could not be applied to this set of facts under the "clear and present danger" rule.

Will Defend 29

In the light of these considerations it is obviously mandatory on the Civil Liberties Union to engage in the defense with a view to testing in the Supreme Court, if necessary, the constitutionality of the laws and their application to this set of facts.

But quite aside from the legal questions, we desire to call the government's attention to a series of circumstances which appear to indicate a gross impropriety on the part of government officials in securing the indictment.

Behind the Indictment

It appears that on June 13th Daniel Tobin, president of the International Teamsters Union, telegraphed the President from Indianapolis appealing for federal action against the Truck Drivers Union, Local 544 in Minneapolis, sixteen of whose members are included in the indictment. Mr. Tobin's action followed a long controversy with the local, in part resting upon the union's disagreement with Mr. Tobin as to national policy in relation to the war. Mr. Tobin supported the President, and the local opposed the administration's foreign policies. This led to a request by Mr. Tobin for the appointment of a representative to take over the local's affairs with power to expel any member. Naturally the local rejected it. The result was that on June 9 the 4,000 members of the union, by an almost unanimous vote, decided to disaffiliate from the Teamsters Union and to join the CIO.

Mr. Tobin's telegram said in part: "The withdrawal from the International Union by the truck drivers union Local 544 and the other small union in Minneapolis, and their affiliation with the CIO is indeed a regrettable and dangerous condition. The officers of this local union . . . were requested to disassociate themselves from the radical Trotsky organization . . . . we feel that while our country is in a dangerous position, those disturbers who believe in the policies of foreign, radical governments, must be

(OVER)

Civil Liberties Union Blasts Indictment of 29

in some way prevented from pursuing this dangerous course . . . . "

What White House Said

Stephen Early, the President's secretary, immediately issued the following statement from the White House: "Mr. Tobin telegraphed from Indianapolis that it is apparent to him and to the other executives of his organization that because they have been and will continue to stand squarely behind the government, all subversive organizations and all enemies of our government, including Bundists, Trotskyists and Stalinists are opposed to them and seeking to destroy loyal trade unions which are defending democracy.

"Mr. Tobin goes into considerable detail and states that he is going to issue a statement from the Indianapolis office of the teamsters union. When I advised the President of Tobin's representations this morning, he asked me to immediately have the government departments and agencies interested in this matter notified, and to point out that this is no time, in his opinion, for labor unions, local or national, to begin raiding one another for the purpose of getting memberships or for similar reasons."

Tobin Asks, Roosevelt Gives

It is reasonable to conclude that the action thereafter taken by the government arose from the President's reaction to Mr. Tobin's request. The government's attitude was expressed in a statement from the Attorney-General's office to the effect that "the principal Socialist Workers Party leaders, against whom prosecution is being brought, are also leaders of Local 544-CIO in Minneapolis . . . who have been engaged in criminal seditious activities . . . and have gained control of a legitimate labor union to use it for illegitimate purposes."

Is Abuse of Law

It may be argued that Mr. Tobin merely called the government's attention to a situation which in itself warranted federal action. But it seems more reasonable to conclude that the government injected itself into an inter-union controversy in order to promote the interests of the one side which supported the administration's foreign and domestic policies. In our judgment, this is a highly improper use of the criminal law. Our conclusion is reinforced by the fact that it has been a matter of common knowledge for some years that the Socialist Workers Party, an insignificant little group of extremists, has been strongly represented in the Minneapolis labor movement—alone of any city in the country. Nothing charged in the indictment is of recent origin. The situation in Minneapolis is no different now from that obtaining over the past five or ten years.

In the light of these facts, we urge a reconsideration by the Department of Justice of this prosecution with a view to its dismissal.

THE AMERICAN CIVIL LIBERTIES UNION
By: Dr. John Haynes Holmes, Chairman of Board
Roger Baldwin, Director
Arthur Garfield Hays, General Counsel

August 20, 1941

SUGGESTED OUTLINE FOR SPEECH AT AFL OR INDEPENDENT UNION

I. STATE WHOM YOU REPRESENT.

a. The Civil Rights Defense Committee, which is endorsed by the Workers Defense League, the American Civil Liberties Union, numerous labor and progressive organizations, and authorized to represent the 28 defendants now on trial in Minneapolis for their union activities and opinions.

b. There are 28 defendants in all, 15 unionists and 13 leaders and members of the Socialist Workers Party.

II. EMPHASIZE THE BASIC ISSUES AT STAKE IN THE TRIAL.

a. These people on trial under the Smith Act of 1940, the constitutionality of which not yet tested. This act punishes the mere expression of opinion. It attacks the fundamental rights of labor, which the AFL was instrumental in establishing only after years of hard struggle.

b. It is the first such attack on civil liberties and rights of labor since the first world war, and threatens to set a precedent for a reign of terror against all labor comparable only to the anti-labor acts of fascist countries.

c. The AFL has great tradition in defense of constitutional rights of the people. Tom Mooney, a member of the Moulders Union AFofL, was staunchly defended by AFL over a period of many years.

d. This case has been recognized by labor and liberal leaders, by the Nation, New Republic, etc., as the first great case involving free speech since last war, and since the Mooney case no such vicious attack on rights of labor has been launched in the courts.

e. If the 28 are jailed in Mpls., the great democratic rights won by the labor movement will be put behind bars.

f. Now is the time for labor to stand together in solidarity against all reactionary attempts to destroy its rights.

III. WHAT WE NEED.

a. The Civil Rights Defense Committee has undertaken to set up a kitchen in Minneapolis and feed the defendants and their families, pay the court costs and legal fees, and prepare for a supreme court test if necessary, all of which mounts into expenses of tens of thousands of dollars. CLOSE WITH A STRONG PLEA FOR A CONTRIBUTION AND FOR PASSAGE OF THE RESOLUTION.

SUGGESTED OUTLINE FOR TALK AT CIO UNIONS

I. STATE WHOM YOU REPRESENT.

a. The Civil Rights Defense Committee, authorized by Local 544-CIO in Minneapolis to defend the unionists on trial, endorsed by the American Civil Liberties Union, by the Workers Defense League and many trade union and progressive organizations.

b. There are 28 defendants in all, 15 of whom are leaders of Local 544, Motor Transport and Allied Workers Union (President, Vice-President, Sec'y.-Treas., organizers and Executive Board members); others are leaders and members of the Socialist Workers Party.

II. GIVE BACKGROUND OF CASE...VERY BRIEF.

a. Short history of record of 544 through efforts of which Minneapolis became a union town.

b. It elects to disaffiliate from AFL and join CIO, immediately after this, indictments are slapped on all officers of the union. This in spite of the fact that the local was welcomed into CIO by Philip Murray, R.J. Thomas and virtually all the Presidents of CIO Internationals.

c. Indictments coming at such a time revealed an obvious attempt to prevent Local 544-CIO from exercising the basic democratic right of the workers joining a union of their choice.

d. Quote Geo. F. Addis, Sec'y.-Treas. of UAW, who said at last UAW convention, "Mr. Tobin, Pres. of the AFL Teamsters Int'l., has solicited and received the support of the FBI against the CIO movement in this case!"

III. EMPHASIZE MEANING OF CASE TO LABOR.

a. The most sweeping attack on rights of labor since the last war.

b. First trial under vicious Smith Act of 1940, under which Harry Bridges is being persecuted.

c. Labor's Non-Partisan League statement that this trial will set a precedent for further governmental persecutions against other trade unionists. US District Attorney Anderson has already indicated in his opening remarks in the courtroom in Mpls. that even the demand for higher wages will be branded a crime.

d. The hard won democratic rights of labor are on trial today in Minneapolis. If they jail the 28 they will put the rights of labor behind bars.

IV. STATE WHAT WE NEED.

a. The committee has set up a kitchen to feed the 28, we must pay for court costs, legal fees, for the court record, and for preparations for appeal to the Supreme Court if necessary.

b. Quote Tucker Smith's letter asking CIO unions to contribute. Numerous UAW, SWOC and other CIO unions have contributed. (Have list at hand.)

c. CLOSE WITH PLEA FOR FUNDS AND PASSAGE OF RESOLUTION.

CIVIL RIGHTS DEFENSE COMMITTEE

160 FIFTH AVENUE • NEW YORK CITY • CHELSEA 2-8735

NATIONAL COMMITTEE

Dewey Albinson
Prof. Joseph Warren Beach
William Rose Benet
Warren K. Billings
Alice Stone Blackwell
Theodore Brameld
John Chamberlain
Sarah T. Colvin
Kenneth G. Crawford
Elloues Day
Margaret De Silver
Dr. John Dewey
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John Dos Passos
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Zara DuPont
Charles D. Egley
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Margaret West
Edmund Wilson
Frances Winwar
A. L. Wirin
Prof. E. W. Zabriskie

JAMES T. FARRELL, Chairman
JOHN DOS PASSOS, Vice-Chairman
GEORGE NOVACK, Secretary

Dear Friend:

When the 18 Minneapolis union and socialist leaders were placed behind prison bars on December 31st, Roger Baldwin, Director of the American Civil Liberties Union declared: "This imprisonment never should have taken place under a law which never should have been passed." They were sentenced under the Smith "Gag" Law for their opinions alone. The ACLU, together with our Committee was preparing to test the constitutionality of the Smith Act. When the U. S. Supreme Court three times refused to review the case, Mr. Baldwin declared this action was unprecedented.

Now these 18 courageous people are carrying the double burden of unjust imprisonment and worry about their loved ones. They know that their wives and children will suffer great hardships and privations. They are counting on us to help them until they are freed and once again able to provide for them. In some of the families there are babies and children of school age who need food, clothing, medical care. These mothers cannot work because they have young children to care for; some of the other wives are in poor health or too old.

We have pledged ourselves to take care of the families of the 18 while they are in prison and to relieve them of this burden of worry. Will you, as a defender of justice and civil liberties, help us to help these prisoners and their families? We have the full cooperation and support of the American Civil Liberties Union. We will be very grateful for whatever you can do.

Sincerely yours,

James T. Farrell
Chairman

Endorsed by THE AMERICAN CIVIL LIBERTIES UNION and THE WORKERS DEFENSE LEAGUE

CIO Auto Workers Vote Support to 544

BUFFALO, N. Y., Aug. 12 --The sixth annual convention of the United Automobile Workers of America (CIO), representing 550,000 workers, went unanimously on record in full support of the Minneapolis Motor Transport & Allied Workers Industrial Union Local 544-CIO. The one thousand assembled delegates not only voted to welcome Local 544 into the CIO, but sharply protested the use of the FBI against Local 544 and voted to support the campaign of the UCWOC to organise a democratic industrial union among the nation's transport drivers.

In a speech on the Local 544 situation, Secretary - Treasurer George F. Addes of the UAW said:

"I THINK THE DELEGATES SHOULD KNOW THAT MR. DANIEL TOBIN IS VERY CLOSELY CONNECTED WITH THE PRESENT ADMINISTRATION. Mr. Tobin has solicited the support and has received the suport of the FBI against the efforts of the CIO movement.

"The delegates should also know that today in the city of Detroit the AFL Teamsters organization has been responsible for having gangsters come into that city in an effort to destroy the CIO movement in a number of industries. More than a hundred goons mobilized (in Detroit) to destroy the CIO Milk Drivers movement. A resolution should point out some of the happenings in Detroit.

"LET THE GOVERNMENT KNOW, TOO, THAT WE WILL NOT TOLERATE THE USE OF GOVERNMENTAL INSTITUIONS AGAINST THE CIO IN BUILDING ITS MOVEMENT!"

FBI Disruption Hit

Delegate William Mazey of Local 212, Briggs Body, of Detroit, told the convention that "The Minneapolis Teamsters bolted the AFL because of the dictatorial policies of Dan Tobin. But I think some mention should also be made of the role of the FBI in this thing. It seems to me that the government has gone out of its way to disrupt this organization. As long as the (Minneapolis) Teamsters belonged to the AFL, everything was OK. But immediately upon their affiliation to the CIO, their leaders were indicted because of their political opinions.

"It is my opinion that this convention should go on record as being opposed to the use of government agencies to disrupt a legitimate organization of labor. . . . I think that those of us who can read and who have read the labor history of this country, know that immediately after the last war there was a drive made upon all people who had different political beliefs —the Red Raids, the Palmer Raids. We are entering a war period now where I think the same thing is being done anywhere there are militant workers who fight for the rights of the people."

Roosevelt Helps Tobin

Delegate Lundquist of Local 839 in Seattle took the floor to state:

"The Federal government is using its forces to pay a political debt to Daniel Tobin, who in previous years has been very close to the President.

"Daniel Tobin, through his dictatorial AFL, was unable to keep the Minneapolis truck drivers in line. When they did go CIO he asked for political help and caused the city of Minneapolis to be filled with all kinds of federal investigators to help Tobin."

Text of Auto Workers Resolution Supporting Local 544 and UCWOC

Following is the text of the resolution of support to Local 544-CIO passed unanimously by the delegates to the CIO United Auto Workers convention:

WHEREAS: Minneapolis Local 544-CIO Motor Transport Workers Union, which is the spearhead of the motor transport workers movement of the Northwest, has transferred its affiliation from the AFL Teamsters International into the CIO in order to free themselves from the dictatorial, racketer, craft-union set-up of Daniel Tobin, and

WHEREAS: CIO President Philip Murray, President R. J. Thomas, and the national officers of the CIO have welcomed this militant and progressive union into the CIO after the membership of Local 544 voted almost unanimously to join the CIO, and

WHEREAS: The United Construction Workers Organizing Committee, with which Minneapolis Local 544 is now affiliated, has inaugurated a nation-wide drive to bring democratic industrial unionism to the American motor transport workers, therefore be it

RESOLVED: That this, the sixth annual convention of the UAW-CIO, go on record welcoming the Motor Transport Workers into the CIO and pledges its full support to the organizing drive of the United Constructon Workers Organizing Committee in this field, and be it further

RESOLVED: That we protest the use of any government agencies and particularly the FBI, to be used to oppress or harass any labor organization in the pursuit of their legitimate activities .

CIVIL RIGHTS DEFENSE COMMITTEE
160 Fifth Avenue, New York City
* * *

Industrial Organizer Special Subscription Campaign

To all Branches:

Three weeks ago the CRDC undertook the job of getting 1,000 three month subscriptions for the Industrial Organizer for the purpose of publicizing the trial.

Since that time the Industrial Organizer has carried a day by day account of the court proceedings. In most localities the press has maintained a rigid silence on this important case. The Organizer is one of our best methods of breaking through this silence and reaching a wide circle of people.

Everyone working for the defense of the 28 realizes this. Everyone reports the ease with which subscriptions are obtained. Below you will find a list which will speak for itself.

	Quota	Subs		Quota	Subs
Akron, Ohio	10		New York,	225	24
Allentown, Pa.	10	2	Pasadena, Texas	1	
Baltimore, Md.	5		Perkasie, Pa.	2	
Baton Rouge, La.	4	4	Philadelphia, Pa.	20	6
Berkeley, Cal.	5		Pittsburg, Pa.	4	
Boston, Mass.	50	5	*Plentywood, Mon.	5	13
Buffalo, N. Y.	25	14	Portland, Oregon	4	
Canton, N. Y.	2		Reading, Pa.	10	
Chicago, Ill.	100	26	Rochester, N. Y.	10	9
Cleveland, O.	30		St. Louis, Mo.	5	
Detroit	50	29	San Diego, Cal.	20	1
E. Chicago, Ill.	10		San Pedro, Cal.	5	3
Flint, Mich	20	8	San Francisco, Cal.	60	8
*Hutchinson, Kansas	1	6	Seattle, Wash.	5	
Indiannapolis, Ind.	5		Syracuse, N. Y.	2	
Los Angeles, Cal.	100	6	Westport, Conn.	1	
Memphis, Tenn.	2		Wichita, Kan.	1	
Milwaukee, Wisc.	5		Yellow Springs, O.	1	
Minneapolis, Minn.	50	22	Youngstown, O.	22	15
St.Paul, Minn.	20	2	Duluth, Minn.		2
Newark, N.J.	60		Hopkins, Minn.		1
New Haven, Conn.	25	4			

*Over the quota!

The trial is reaching its climax. This week the defense presents its case. Get behind the Organizer Special Sub Drive with the full force of your branch. Publicity for the case is imperative. This is a readymade way of getting it out. Send your subs directly to the Industrial Organizer, 1328 Second St., No., Minneapolis, Minn.

[n.d.]

Date.....

JAMES T. FARRELL, Chairman,
Civil Rights Defense Committee,
160 Fifth Avenue, N. Y. C.

I enclose $.....for the

Minneapolis Political Prisoners Relief Fund

NAME.....

ADDRESS.....

CITY & STATE.....

309

Date.....

Dear James T. Farrell
John Dos Passos

I accept your invitation to join the CIVIL RIGHTS DEFENSE COMMITTEE.

(Signed)

Name.....

Address.....

City.....State.....

248

JAMES T. FARRELL, Chairman,
Civil Rights Defense Committee,
160 Fifth Avenue, N. Y. C.

Date.....

I pledge to contribute $.....for the next.....months to provide relief for the 18 Minneapolis prisoners, their wives and children.

NAME.....

ADDRESS.....

CITY & STATE.....

248

I want to fight this frame-up!

Dr. George S. Counts, Treasurer
Workers Defense League
112 E. 19th St., N. Y. 3, N. Y.

I want to help free Kelly Postal. Here is my contribution of $_____

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY AND STATE _____

☐ I am wiring or writing to Gov. Edward J. Thye, St. Paul, Minnesota, asking him to pardon Kelly Postal.

309

CIVIL RIGHTS DEFENSE COMMITTEE

160 FIFTH AVENUE • NEW YORK CITY • CHELSEA 2-8735

NATIONAL COMMITTEE

Dewey Albinson
George Baldanzi
Prof. Joseph Warren Beach
William Rose Benet
Warren K. Billings
Alice Stone Blackwell
Theodore Brameld
John Chamberlain
Sarah T. Colvin
Kenneth G. Crawford
Elloues Day
Gabriel De Angelis
Thomas De Lorenzo
Margaret De Silver
Dr. John Dewey
Prof. Emmett E. Dorsey
John Dos Passos
W. E. B. DuBois
Zara DuPont
Charles D. Egley
James T. Farrell
Duncan Ferguson
Waldo Frank
Henry Fruchter
Jules Geller
Joseph Gilbert
Clement Greenberg
Mary W. Hillyer
Franz Hoellering
Rt. Rev. D. T. Huntington
Mark DeWolfe Howe
Rose Karsner
Judge Dorothy Kenyon
Dr. Antoinette Konikow
Rev. Owen D. Knox
Prof. Maynard Krueger
Alfred Baker Lewis
Dr. Benjamin Lippincott
Margaret Marshall
Mary McCarthy
Prof. F. O. Matthiessen
Prof. Alexander Meiklejohn
Bella Kussy Milmed
Gorham B. Munson
Pauli Murray
A. J. Muste
Louis Nelson
Dorothy Norman
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Liston M. Oak
William Phillips
A. Clayton Powell, Jr.
Philip Rahv
Prof. Louis Raths
Morris Reiger
Rep. Paul A. Richie
Bernard Rifkin
James Rorty
Clarence Rust
Dr. Max Seham
Max Shachtman
Prof Meyer Schapiro
Mark Starr
Carolyn N. Storlie
Dr. Willard Uphaus
Adelaide Walker
Charles Rumford Walker
Charles C. Webber
Margaret West
Edmund Wilson
Frances Winwar
A. L. Wirin
Prof. E. W. Zabriskie

JAMES T. FARRELL, Chairman
JOHN DOS PASSOS, Vice-Chairman
GEORGE NOVACK, Secretary

THIS CHRISTMAS HELP LABOR'S PRISONERS!

Dear Friend:

Twelve members of Minneapolis Truckdrivers Local 544-CIO and of the Socialist Workers Party have been in prison now for over ten months, solely because of their labor activities and political opinions. Six others were released on October 20th.

The imprisonment of these eighteen under the vicious Smith "Gag" law makes the Minneapolis Labor Case the most important civil liberties issue in recent years. Already over 350 unions and other progressive organizations representing more than 3,500,000 members have supported the work of the Civil Rights Defense Committee.

As the enclosed leaflet shows, the Minneapolis Labor Case directly involves you and your democratic rights. Our campaign to free the prisoners and repeal the Smith "Gag" Act is a campaign to defend the hard-won rights of the entire American people.

Ever since the eighteen went to prison the CRDC has provided relief for their wives and children. Without this aid the families of these persecuted labor leaders would suffer great hardships and privations. Today the high cost of living makes feeding and clothing their unfortunate ones an ever-increasing problem for the Committee.

HELP US TO MAKE THEIR CHRISTMAS CHEERFUL!

Please send your contribution to the Civil Rights Defense Committee, 160 Fifth Ave., New York.

Sincerely yours,

John Green
President, Industrial Union of Marine & Ship-Building Workers-CIO

George Baldanzi
Executive Vice-President Textile Workers Union-CIO

Louis Hochman
General Manager, N. Y. Joint Board, Dress & Waistmakers Union, ILGWU-AFL

Roger Baldwin
Director American Civil Liberties Union

James T. Farrell
Novelist

William Sommerfield
President, United Transport Service Employees-CIO

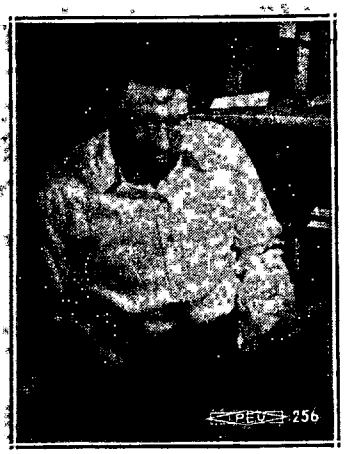
John Dewey
Philosopher and Educator

Warren K. Billings
Famous Labor Prisoner

Endorsed by THE AMERICAN CIVIL LIBERTIES UNION and THE WORKERS DEFENSE LEAGUE

FREE SPEECH AND LABOR'S RIGHTS

by JAMES T. FARRELL



Practically all sections of the labor and liberal movement in this country have expressed alarm over the mounting tide of reaction. Today, the threat of reaction is immediate, not distant. And inevitably, the major purpose of reaction is that of destroying the independence of the labor movement, so that it may be able to forge new chains for the workers. But before this can happen, civil liberties must be abrogated, especially the precious right of freedom of speech, must be destroyed.

Freedom of speech and the freedom of labor are integral. This is why the fascist dictatorships of Europe, when they gained power, immediately crushed the labor unions, and imposed rigid censorships. And in America during the last few years, there have been a whole series of attacks both on the labor movement and on the Bill of Rights.

• VIOLATION OF FREEDOM OF SPEECH

Congress, largely under the inspiration of poll-tax legislators, has passed the vicious Connally Anti-Strike Bill and the equally notorious Smith "Gag" Act. The latter was enacted in time of peace. It is in flagrant contradiction with that provision of the Bill of Rights which states unconditionally that Congress may pass no law abridging freedom of speech. According to this law, freedom of speech has not merely been temporarily suspended in the name of an emergency; it has, in essence, been abrogated. Thus it is now possible for American citizens to be convicted and jailed, merely for the expression of opinion. In fact, precisely this has happened, as we will see in a few moments.

At the time of the passage of this Act, both the AFL and CIO opposed it. Representative Geyer of California declared: "This bill is an attempt to put an end to real democracy. It is an attempt to break the labor movement." Representative Martin of Colorado said: "It is enough to make Thomas Jefferson turn in his grave. It is without precedent in the history of labor legislation. It is an invention of intolerance contrary to every principle of democracy." After its passage, the American Civil Liberties Union pleaded with President Roosevelt to veto it, charging that it violated the Bill of Rights, and that it "would become an instrument of oppression against unpopular minorities and organized labor."

• SMITH "GAG" ACT AS AN INSTRUMENT OF OPPRESSION

Unfortunately for the cause of free speech, the prediction of the American Civil Liberties Union was fulfilled. As a result of a trade union conflict between Minneapolis trade unionists, who were also members of the Socialist Workers Party, on the one hand, and of Daniel J. Tobin, President of the International Brotherhood of Teamsters on the other hand, the Minneapolis Labor Case has become a major item in the history of free speech and of the American trade union movement.

The Minneapolis union leaders opposed Daniel J. Tobin's attempts to impose his authority over their local. After a democratic and almost unanimous vote of nearly 4,000 members of their local, the union disaffiliated from the AFL and joined the CIO. Daniel J. Tobin made representations to President Roosevelt by wire. He was not ignored, for the *New York Times* of June 14, 1941 informs us that Stephen Early, Secretary of President Roosevelt told the press: "When I advised the President of Tobin's representations this morning, he asked me immediately to have the Government departments and agencies interested in this matter notified."

• JUSTICE DEPT. RAIDS . . . WITHOUT JUSTICE

Significantly enough, the Governmental department which seemed to be most interested in this matter was the one which is described by the word—justice. Shortly after Mr. Early's statement to the press, agents of the Department of Justice raided the headquarters of the Socialist Workers Party, and also of the newly formed Motor Transport and Allied Workers Industrial Union, Local 544-CIO. There followed indictments against 29 members of this party and union local under charges of a conspiracy to commit acts to overthrow the government and the expression of opinion for the same purposes.

The first of these charges was based on an antiquated Civil War law directed against supporters of the slave owners' rebellion. The second was based on the Smith "Gag" Act. Concerning the political motivation of this prosecution, the American Civil Liberties Union has stated: "It seems reasonable to conclude that the government interjected itself into an inter-union controversy in order to promote the interests of the one side which

supported the administration's foreign and domestic policies."

● 100 YEAR OLD LITERATURE USED AS EVIDENCE

When the government prosecution of this case opened, its attorney, Victor A. Anderson, argued that in order to gain a conviction it was not necessary to prove that the defendants had committed overt acts; mere expression of opinion was enough. This contention, made by a man under the authority of the allegedly liberal Attorney-General Francis Biddle, is to say the least, astonishing. And, in passing, one of the proofs presented by the prosecution was *The Communist Manifesto* written in 1848 by Karl Marx.

The jury threw the first count out of court, and convicted 18 of the defendants on the second count. This conviction was sustained in the Circuit Court and then carried to the U. S. Supreme Court. The Supreme Court three times refused even to hear the appeal on this case, even though it was the first one which tested the constitutionality of the Smith Act. With such action on the part of the highest court of the land, the case is just about closed as far as the government is concerned.

● LABOR AND LIBERALS MUST FIGHT

However, for the labor and liberal movement, this case cannot be closed. For in effect, it has established the Japanese doctrine of dangerous thoughts as the law of the land; the Holmes and Brandeis doctrine of "clear and present danger" has been totally ignored. The U. S. Supreme Court has implicitly upheld a law which abridges the right of freedom of speech. And the government has already cited this case as a precedent in its latest effort to deport Harry Bridges, the west coast labor leader. Despite the fact that Harry Bridges is one of the leading labor supporters of the present administration, despite the fact that he is an unqualified adversary of the Minneapolis defendants, he is not immune to the consequences of this conviction. No more evidence is needed to document the dangerous precedent established here.

The constitutional question of free speech has now been thrown into total confusion and it is even possible for an American citizen to be jailed if he reads in public either *The Declaration of Independence* or *The Second Inaugural Address* of Abraham Lincoln.

● FASCISM ATTACKS LABOR FIRST

The history of fascism teaches us that the first attacks made by reaction are against the labor movement, and usually against its extreme left wing. This has happened in the Minneapolis Labor Case. Further, the force of law and the police power has now been substituted for the use of reason, persuasion, argument in the case of those who defend the historic ideas of Marxian socialism. It should be clear that this kind of an attack against socialist ideas—that this jailing of socialist leaders can only help pave the way that makes it so much easier for fascism.

This kind of governmental action has the further effect of making men fearful and of aiding in the spread of that paralysis of will, of morale and of intellect which is already all too apparent in the present period of history. When the penalty of honest thinking is a cell in a jail, fewer men will dare to think. Under such conditions, political argument is made more and more the province of those who are unprincipled, dishonest and unscrupulous. For they have no need to try and tell the truth; they have no need to state what is their real conviction. They can, thereby, evade all such laws as these. But those whose political actions are principled cannot take this course. They must either be silent or risk punishment. This is one of the most significant ways in which laws such as the Smith Act and prosecutions such as the Minneapolis Case, destroy the very moral fibre of men.

The eighteen defendants in this case refused to sacrifice their views and convictions, even at the price of freedom. If those of us who are outside of prisons do not continue our work in their defense, it is not at all impossible that they will have company in their confinement.

● "THE FIGHT MUST GO ON"

During the Lincoln Douglas debates, Abraham Lincoln declared: "The fight must go on. The cause of civil liberty must not be surrendered at the end of one or even one hundred defeats." Tonight, I wish to reaffirm this sentiment. The Minneapolis Case has become the major focus in the fight for civil liberties in war time America.

Following the refusal of the Supreme Court even to hear the appeal on this case, the Civil Rights Defense Committee is now conducting a pardon campaign to appeal to the President for executive pardon. It is asking the entire labor and liberal movement to support it in this campaign by signing its petitions for pardon, and by writing directly to the President, asking that pardon be granted.

The defense of the Minneapolis victims is, in itself, an attack on the Smith "Gag" Act. For this law remains hanging over the head of labor like the pendulum over the head of the victim in Edgar Allan Poe's story *The Pit and the Pendulum*. The defense of labor's rights, the defense of free speech, the defense against fascism requires that this pendulum be put into a museum.

R. J. THOMAS

PRESIDENT, United Automobile Workers of America - CIO

"I am of the opinion that these people should be supported for two reasons: first, the National CIO takes that position, and second, they were undoubtedly sent to prison under a law with which we cannot possibly agree . . . the case itself involves a serious threat to labor generally."

WILLARD TOWNSEND

PRESIDENT, United Transport Service Employees - CIO

"Our International Union at its convention vigorously expressed itself against the denial of civil rights involved in the persecution of the 18 Minneapolis defendants. We feel the refusal of the U. S. Supreme Court to hear your case, the first appeal of any conviction under the notorious Smith 'Gag' Act, is an indication of the anti-civil liberties temper of these times. We pledge our solidarity with you in the work that lies ahead to secure the freedom of the eighteen defendants."

ROGER BALDWIN

DIRECTOR, American Civil Liberties Union

"This is a case which never should have been brought to court under a law which never should have been passed. Never before has the Supreme Court refused to review a case of this importance."

INTERNATIONAL LADIES' GARMENT WORKERS UNION - AFL

"The records of the case abundantly show that they were condemned simply and solely for the expression of opinion, no overt act of any sort being charged against them. . . . We are deeply convinced that these convictions challenge the best traditions of civil liberty under the Constitution."

Boston Convention Resolution—June, 1944

IRVING ABRAMSON *PRESIDENT, New Jersey State CIO Council*

"My disagreement with their ideas forms the very basis of my strong conviction that their right to their beliefs and their freedom to express those beliefs ought to be strongly safeguarded. This principle, I believe, is the very rock upon which our democracy stands. This is the reason why the Executive Board of the organization which I head recorded itself in favor of protecting the civil rights of the defendants involved. Therefore, on behalf of the New Jersey State CIO Council, I would like to add my strong protest."

Recognizing the vital importance of the Minneapolis Labor Case to the entire trade union movement, four Internationals and over 300 unions and progressive organizations representing more than 3,000,000 workers have already backed our campaign to free the 18 and repeal the vicious Smith "Gag" Act. Among these supporting locals are 58 United Automobile Workers-CIO, 22 Steel Workers-CIO, 19 International Ladies Garment Workers-AFL, 14 Textile Workers-CIO, 11 Retail, Wholesale & Department Store Employees-CIO, 10 Amalgamated Clothing Workers-CIO and scores of other CIO, AFL and Independent unions, as well as many Councils and Joint Boards.

JOIN THESE PROGRESSIVE UNIONS BY SENDING US YOUR CONTRIBUTION TO HELP OUR FIGHT TO FREE THE 18!

JOHN GREEN

PRESIDENT, Industrial Union of Marine & Shipbuilding Workers of America - CIO

"I consider it my personal duty as a responsible union leader and as an American to strongly protest the recent decision of the Supreme Court of the U. S. refusing to consider the appeal of 18 members of Minneapolis Truckdrivers Union."

GEORGE BALDANZI

EXECUTIVE VICE-PRESIDENT, Textile Workers Union of America - CIO

"Speaking for the Textile Workers Union of America, with full knowledge of the issues in this case and on behalf of labor victims of an unfair law, I wish to state that our National Council has endorsed this movement of the CRDC and we intend to continue our support."

WARREN K. BILLINGS

Famous Labor Prisoner

"The prosecution of these 18 was a part of the drive by the enemies of organized labor to get rid of the most militant trade union elements. . . . This is an attack upon the entire labor movement and it must be met with the united action of all labor. That is why it is so important for every class conscious worker to fight for the freedom of the 18 and for the repeal of the Smith 'Gag' Act."

LABOR AND LIBERALS CONDEMN CONVICTIONS

NEW JERSEY STATE CIO COUNCIL

"My disagreement with their ideas forms the very basis of my strong conviction that their right to their beliefs and their freedom to express those beliefs ought to be strongly safeguarded. This principle, I believe, is the very rock upon which our democracy stands. This is the reason why the Executive Board of the organization which I head recorded itself in favor of protecting the civil rights of the defendants involved. Therefore, on behalf of the New Jersey State CIO Council, I would like to add my strong protest against the refusal of the Supreme Court of the United States to hear a case where the elements of freedom of speech are involved."—*Irving Abramson, President*

UNITED TRANSPORT EMPLOYEES-CIO

"The refusal of the United States Supreme Court to hear the case, the first appeal of any conviction under the notorious Smith "Gag" Act, is an indication of the anti-civil liberties temper of these times. We pledge our solidarity with you in the work that lies ahead to secure the freedom of the 18 defendants."—*Willard Townsend, President.*

AMERICAN CIVIL LIBERTIES UNION

"This is a case which never should never have been brought to court under a law which should never have been passed. Never before has the Supreme Court refused to review a case of this importance."—*Roger Baldwin, Director*

THE NATION—Liberal Weekly

"The record of this prosecution is one to shame every decent American . . . A greater crime is the injury done the Bill of Rights by their prosecution and by the dangerous precedents established, from which the court has averted its face."—*Jan. 15, 1944.*

PM—N.Y. Daily

"To permit such convictions to stand is to establish a new and dangerous precedent. To refuse a hearing, after the lower courts have set aside the 'clear and present danger' rule, is to invite the disregard in war and peace of one of the principal constitutional doctrines safeguarding freedom of speech and press." *Dec. 31, 1943.*

ROCHESTER (N.Y.) RAILROAD COUNCIL

"We recognize this as a general attack on labor and therefore a fight that all labor must rally to. The Rochester Railroad Council goes on record condemning these convictions of workers under this law."

Recognizing the vital importance of the Minneapolis case to the entire labor movement and the cause of civil liberties, over 135 unions have already given support or contributed to our work. Among them are the United Transport Service Employees-CIO, the New Jersey State CIO Council, the St. Louis, Mo. Joint Council CIO, the San Francisco Industrial Union Council, 40 UAW-CIO Locals, 11 United Steel Workers locals, 7 United Rubber Workers locals together with dozens of other CIO, AFL and independent unions.

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HERE ARE THE FACTS IN THE CASE

The prosecution arose out of a conflict over union policies between the progressive Minneapolis Local 544 and AFL Teamsters International President Daniel J. Tobin. In June 1941 when Local 544 by a majority vote transferred its affiliation from the AFL to the CIO, Tobin personally telegraphed President Roosevelt for help. Administration authorities seized this opportunity to indict the national leaders of the Socialist Workers Party together with the leaders of Local 544-CIO for their socialist views and union activities. The American Civil Liberties Union stated in its protest to Attorney-General Biddle at that time: "The government interjected itself into an inter-union controversy in order to promote the interest of one side which supported the administration's policies."

After a five-week trial 18 of the original 29 defendants were found guilty of violating the Smith "Gag" Act. The prosecution's "evidence" consisted of certain statements alleged to have been made before witnesses who were mostly Tobin's agents or employees; or that they publicly sold literature of the Socialist Workers Party and books by Marx, Engels, Lenin and Trotsky which can be obtained in practically every public library in the country. *Thus the 18 were convicted not for anything they did but solely because of their beliefs!*

After the Circuit Court of Appeals upheld the convictions, the U.S. Supreme Court *three times* refused to review the case, even though these were the first convictions under the 1940 Smith "Gag" Act. This reactionary law, sponsored by poll-tax Congressman Howard Smith of Virginia, *is the first since 1798 to make the expression of an opinion a federal crime.*

The unjust imprisonment of the 18 sets a dangerous precedent which threatens your freedom and that of every American who may disagree with the administration's policies. The upholding of the Smith "Gag" Act now makes it a crime to exercise the right of free speech and creates a weapon which can be used to deprive other trade unionists and working class political parties of their democratic rights. Unions and liberals all over the country will feel the sting of this whip.

The Civil Rights Defense Committee is fighting a national campaign to obtain an unconditional Presidential pardon for the Minneapolis prisoners. They are the victims now. YOU MAY BE THE NEXT!

WHAT YOU MUST DO NOW

1. Write to President Roosevelt asking him to pardon the 18 Minneapolis prisoners and uphold the Bill of Rights.
2. Give all the money that you can to help in this fight to free the 18, repeal the Smith Act and provide relief for the wives and children of the prisoners.

I'LL HELP IN THE FIGHT!

JAMES T. FARRELL, *Chairman*
Civil Rights Defense Committee
160 Fifth Ave., N. Y. 10, N. Y.

Here is my contribution of $..... for the MINNEAPOLIS PRISONERS PARDON & RELIEF FUND.

Name .....

Address .....

City & State .....

I am writing to the President asking for a full pardon

15 of the 18 leaders of Minneapolis Truckdrivers Union Local 544-CIO and of the Socialist Workers Party are shown marching to jail in Minneapolis on Dec. 31 to begin serving their twelve to sixteen month prison sentences in the Federal Penitentiary at Sandstone, Minn. Three were sent to Danbury, Conn. Penitentiary. The sole woman defendant, Grace Carlson, was later taken to the Federal Penitentiary at Alderson, W. Va.

18 UNION AND SOCIALIST LEADERS HAVE LOST THEIR FREEDOM

THEIR FIGHT FOR PARDON IS ALSO OUR FIGHT FOR THE BILL OF RIGHTS AGAINST THE VICIOUS SMITH "GAG" ACT

CIVIL RIGHTS DEFENSE COMMITTEE · 160 Fifth Ave. · New York

JAMES T. FARRELL, *CHAIRMAN* • JOHN DOS PASSOS, *VICE-CHAIRMAN* • GEORGE NOVACK, *SECRETARY*

11 Truckdrivers-3 Electricians-
4 Machinists-5 Factory Hands -
2 Educators-1 Lawyer-2 Newspap

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Life Stories
Of the
28 Defendants
Now on Trial
By the
U.S. Government
In Minneapolis

WORKERS ON TRIAL!

KARL KUEHN

Engineer and draftsman. Leader and organizer of Minneapolis unemployed. Officer of Federal Workers Section of 544. Delegate to national unemployment and relief conferences. Indicted in 1939 WPA strikes. Born St. Paul, 1894. Married, 7 children.

FELIX MORROW

Born New York, 1907. Graduate of Columbia University. Newspaperman, author, historian. Prominent in the working class political movement since 1928. Member of the defense committee for the Scottsboro boys. In Minneapolis labor activities since 1937. National committeeman, Socialist Workers Party. Married, 1 child.

ROY ORGON

Born 1905, Sauk Rapids, Minnesota. Became factory worker at 15. At 18, he protested speedup in the factory. Women workers were dropping exhausted at the machines. Orgon picked up slave-driving superintendent by the heels and dragged him through the plant to the office, demanding improved conditions. Became a Minneapolis truck driver in 1933. A 544 militant since 1934. Married, 4 children.

ALFRED RUSSELL

Helped organize drivers union in Omaha, Nebraska, 1938. ..Served six months sentence for strike activity in Minneapolis 1939. Upholstery worker, truck driver, factory worker. Born Brooklyn, New York, 1911.

papermen

OSCAR SCHOENFELD

Born New York, 1916. College graduate. Machine shop worker. Active in Young People's Socialist League. Organizer Minneapolis unemployed. Convicted in trial of WPA strikers. Married.

Mrs. DOROTHY H. SCHULTZ

Born St. Paul, 1909. Graduate St. Joseph's Academy, St. Catherine's College and University of Minnesota. Member American Federation of Teachers. Secretary, Twin Cities Workers Defense League. Noted speaker and writer. Prominent in fight for improvement of relief to unemployed. Married, one child.

Mrs. ROSE SEILER

Born Duluth, 1906. One of six children in family of extreme poverty. Graduate of University of Minnesota, working her way through as cook and housemaid in private homes. Business Agent of the AFL Office Workers Union, she was expelled on orders of William Green for "CIO sympathies". Married, one child.

HAROLD SWANSON

Born 1911, Bradford, Pa. Graduate Dunwoody Technical Institute. Electrical worker, auto repair man. Like so many workers during the depression he has known what it is to be fired from jobs for putting on a union button. Married, 4 children.

NICK WAGNER

Raised on Chicago's north side. Worked in building trades for more than twenty years. Became organizer for Teamsters more than ten years ago. An active, militant unionist in Chicago, Rockford, Ill., and Minneapolis.

Every One A Militant Fighter For Organized Labor And The Working Class!

What a Government Witness Says About the Defendants:--

Thomas V. Smith is an ex-official of Dan Tobin's Teamsters Union. The government called him as a witness. They expected that his testimony would help send the defendants to jail. *But here is what Smith said about the defendants:—*

"I saw the good work of Local 544 in Minneapolis. The leaders were labor-minded, they helped out the smaller locals, and they were for the poor. So I figured that if the Socialist Workers Party produced those kind of people, it was good enough for me!"

That's what a TRUTHFUL opponent thinks of the defendants.

What Can You Do To Help?

Spread the word that workers and fighters for the working class are in danger of being railroaded to jail. Spread the word that the democratic rights of all Americans are threatened in this trial. If the defendants are found guilty, it opens the way to more sweeping attacks by the enemies of labor and civil liberties. You and your fellow workers may be next!

Send a Contribution Now!

The treasury of the Defense Committee is almost empty. Funds are needed badly for this crucial trial. Help us now!

CIVIL RIGHTS DEFENSE COMMITTEE

JAMES T. FARRELL, Chairman
JOHN DOS PASSOS, Vice-Chairman

CARLO TRESCA, Vice-Chairman
GEORGE NOVACK, Secretary

Prof. Joseph Warren Beach, Univ. of Minnesota
William Rose Benet
Warren K. Billings
Alice Stone Blackwell
Theodore Brameld
John Chamberlain
Kenneth G. Crawford, Ex-President American Newspaper Guild-CIO
Elloues Day
Margaret DeSilver
Dr. John Dewey
Prof. Emmett E. Dorsey, Howard University
Zara DuPont
Charles D. Egley, Sec., Farmers Union
Duncan Ferguson
Waldo Frank
Jules Geller
Joseph Gilbert, Sec., Midland Cooperative Wholesale
Caesar Guazzo, Organizer, Clock Workers Union-CIO-No. 359
Prof. George W. Hartmann, Columbia University
Prof. Yandell Henderson, Yale University
Mary Hillyer
Mark De Wolfe Howe, Dean, School of Law, Buffalo Univ.
Rev. Edgar N. Jackson
Rose Karsner
Dorothy Kenyon
Dr. Antoinette Konikow
Bella Kussy
Alfred Baker Lewis
Dr. Benjamin Lippincott, University of Minnesota
Ludwig Lore
Mary McCarthy
A. J. Muste, Sec., Fellowship of Reconciliation
Frank Nowve
William Phillips
Philip Rahv
Morris Reiger, International Representative, Paper, Novelt Toy Workers Intl.-C.I.O.
Clarence Rust
Dr. Max Seeham
Max Shachtman
Prof. Meyer Schapiro, Columbia University
Mark Starr
Dr. William Uphaus, Sec., Religious & Labor Foundatio
Adelaide Walker
Charles Rumford Walker
Edmund Wilson
A. L. Wirin, Counsel, California ACLU
Prof. E. W. Zabriskie, University of Newark

USE THIS BLANK

Civil Rights Defense Committee
160 Fifth Avenue
New York City

I enclose $.....for the Defense Fund of the 28 Defendants in the Minneapolis "Conspiracy" Trial.

Name.....

.....

.....

The Facts!

In 1933, Local 544 of the Minneapolis Teamsters Union had less than 100 members. The average wage of thousands of Minneapolis truckdrivers was 18 cents an hour—about $13 a week for a 70 hour week.

In 1934, a group of coal yard and transportation workers began a membership drive for the union. They organized the vast majority of Minneapolis truckers. The membership of the union jumped to more than 4000.

In 1934, Local 544 took its membership out on strike. They won a series of smashing victories. They raised the average wage to a minimum of 42½ cents an hour. Soon the Minneapolis drivers were earning about $35 a week.

For seven years, 544 has stood in the forefront of every militant labor battle in the Northwest. This union has advanced the cause of labor in every industry in this area.

You can learn about the history of Local 544 from truckdrivers or warehousemen who have worked in Minnesota in recent years. These good union men will gladly tell you about the leaders and organizers of the union. You will learn that Vincent Dunne, Miles Dunne, Farrell Dobbs, Carl Skoglund, George Frosig, Ray Rainbolt, Kelly Postal and others are real workingmen who built a strong workers' union. You will hear a thrilling story of a union that has never retreated. From 1934 to 1941, Local 544 fought under a true labor leadership and served only one cause—the cause of the rank and file worker.

Today, 544's leaders are on trial by the United States government in Minneapolis Federal court . . . WHY?

Daniel J. Tobin, head of the AFL Teamsters International, wanted to seize control of the fighting Minneapolis truckmen by removing their chosen leaders and appointing his personal dictator-receiver over Local 544.

But the membership of 544 rejected Tobin. They voted overwhelmingly to leave the AFL and affiliate with the CIO. Tobin then complained to the government in Washington, asking President Roosevelt for help against 544's leaders. On the heels of Tobin's complaint came the government's indictment for this trial.

What is the Government's excuse?

In 1938, the treacherous American Fascist organization, the "Silver Shirts", came swarming into Minneapolis. Like all Fascists, the Silver Shirts seek to destroy labor unions. They threatened to attack the headquarters of Local 544. 544 replied by forming a Union Defense Guard of 200 members—and the Silver Shirts silently faded away.

Three years later, in this trial, the government claims that those 200 Union Defense Guards were conspirators who intended to overthrow the power of the United States by force and violence!

In addition, the government claims another excuse for the trial. Many leading figures of 544—CIO are also members of the Socialist Workers (Trotskyist) Party. The Socialist Workers Party is opposed to imperialist war. The party believes in a Workers' and Farmers Government for the United States.

Against the 28 defendants, the government has brought a charge of "conspiracy". Most of the defendants are members of 544—CIO. With them are national officers of the Socialist Workers Party. If the charges against these 28 men and women are successful, the rights and liberties of every trade unionist and every liberal-minded American will fall under a dangerous shadow. The prosecutor has stated that part of their "crimes" was to ask for higher wages!

We ask you to read these sketches of the lives of the defendants.

We ask you to help save them from jail. They face 16 years in prison and $10,000 fine each!

We believe this trial is a frame-up!

CIVIL RIGHTS DEFENSE COMMITTEE

VINCENT R. DUNNE

One of the foremost union leaders in the Northwest. He was born in Kansas City in 1889 and entered the labor movement in 1906 with the Western Federation of Miners, I.W.W. He has been miner, farm laborer, lumberjack, and truck driver. He was a guiding spirit in the famous 1934 and 1966 strikes of Local 544. Minneapolis workers in all industries credit Vincent Dunne as a great leader who helped change Minneapolis from an open shop city to a stronghold of union labor. He is married, has two children.

CARL SKOGLUND

President and trustee of Local 544 for several years. Born in 1884; has been a railroad worker, auto mechanic and truck driver. A leader in the 1922 railroad strikes, as chairman of the Burlington R. R. Shopmen's Strike committee. Lost his railroad job because of strike activity. Became truck driver in Minneapolis and helped build 544. A veteran of great labor battles for twenty years.

GEORGE FROSIG

A Minneapolis truck driver, he began his union activity in 1916 with the International Brotherhood of Teamsters. Officer and trustee of 544 for the last twelve years. 544 has a policy of cooperating and helping to develop neighboring unions, especially small locals. In line with this policy, Frosig has helped organize the truckers of Fargo, Sioux City, and Sioux Falls, and the over-the-road drivers of the Northwest. Born in Denmark, 1894. U. S. war veteran, 18 months in the army. Married.

MILES DUNNE

One of the famous "Dunne Brothers" who have helped 544—CIO make labor history in the Northwest. Born at Little Falls, Minn., in 1896. A telegraph linesman until he went overseas with the AEF in 1918. Became a truck driver in 1924. Leader in the great membership drives of Local 544 in 1934. Arrested by National Guard in the 1934 strikes. Founded the Fargo, North Dakota, Drivers Union. Leader and negotiator of contracts in over a hundred victorious strikes, big and small, from 1934 to 1941. Married.

KELLY POSTAL

Born in Wapheton, North Dakota, 1896. He was a coal miner in Kentucky and Illinois and was in the Herrin County coal strikes, 1921-1923. As a driver in Minneapolis, he helped build 544. An outstanding figure in all the

campaigns and struggles of the last seven years, directing the spearheads that have won victories, improvements and progress for Minneapolis labor.

FARRELL DOBBS

Born 1907, Queen City, Missouri. A planning engineer for Western Electric, he quit a promising technical career when he saw how workers were fired wholesale during the depression. He became a laborer in Minneapolis coal yards, joined 544, was an organizer and strike-leader. As national representative for the International Brotherhood of Teamsters, he was the central figure in the brilliant organization of the over-the-road truck drivers in 11 states in the Middlewest, one of the outstanding labor victories in the trucking industry. Thousands of truckmen throughout the country remember his dynamic tactics. Labor Secretary of the Socialist Workers Party. Married, three children.

RAY RAINBOLT

When there's a picket line to be organized, Minneapolis workers call for Rainbolt, an energetic and tireless field general. He was born in Indiana in 1896. A driver for Wells Fargo and American Express; sergeant in the army during the war. In addition to 544, he has been a founder and elected officer of several other locals, leading them in a long series of successful struggles and negotiations. Married, 5 children.

ED PALMQUIST

15 years a machinist and shop foreman. Became convinced of the workers' need for strong rank-and-file unions. Known throughout Minneapolis for his work in behalf of the unemployed. Fought for higher relief budgets. Convicted in 1939 trial of Minneapolis WPA strikers and served 8 months at Sandstone Federal Penitentiary. Born in Minnesota, 1897.

JAMES P. CANNON

National Secretary of the Socialist Workers Party. Born in Rosedale, Kansas, 1890. Thirty years of active service in the working class political movement. Twice indicted on similar charges in Federal witch-hunts of First World War. Nationally known for his leadership in historic strikes and labor trials (Sacco-Vanzetti, etc.). One of labor's great orators.

Mrs. GRACE HOLMES CARLSON

Born in St. Paul, 1906. Graduate, St. Catherine's College. Doctor of Philosophy, University of Minnesota. Taught at the University of Minnesota and served in State Department of Education. Charter member, Minnesota State Employees Union, Local 10. Received over 8,000 votes as candidate for U. S. Senate in Minnesota in 1940. Married.

JAKE COOPER

Born St. Paul, 1916. Truck driver, member of 544—CIO. Long record of strike service. Beaten up by goons in Tobin's war on 544—CIO.

OSCAR COOVER

Railroad electrician. Born Republic, Missouri, 1887. Thirty five years a member of International Brotherhood Electrical Workers. In the historic 1922 railroad shopmen's strikes, he was secretary of the Minneapolis strike committee. Widely known in the Minnesota working class political movement. State organizer for the Socialist Workers Party. Married, three children.

HARRY DEBOER

Born 1905, Crookston, Minnesota. Truck driver and 544 Organizer. Chairman of negotiating committee in 52 day strike of over-the-road drivers in 5 states, 1938. Shot by police in 1934 Minneapolis strike, 5 months in hospital. Official and organizer of general drivers and bakery drivers. Married.

MAX GELDMAN

Another leader in work for the Minneapolis unemployed. Served 8 months sentence in Federal penitentiary for his activity in the 1939 WPA strike. Born in Poland, 1904. A former shipping clerk. Married, one child.

ALBERT GOLDMAN

Brilliant labor lawyer who has defended hundreds of workers and unemployed. Graduate of Chicago public schools and University of Cincinnati. Joined I.W.W. in 1919 at the age of 22. Tailor in clothing factories and member of Amalgamated Clothing Workers. Three years later began study of law at Northwestern University. Since 1927, specialist in labor defense. Attacked by vigilante mob in Danville, Ill., for defending unemployed in 1932. Outstanding writer on socialism and the working class political movement.

WALTER HAGSTROM

Machinist. Born 1897, Stillwater, Minnesota. From 1916 to 1922, he was member and officer, International Association of Machinists, Local 91. Participated in machine shop strikes 1917-1919. Cab driver in Minneapolis during depression. 544 organizer and strike leader. Shop steward in cab industry. Married, 2 children.

CLARENCE HAMEL

A stalwart of the 544 ranks since 1934. Born in Minnesota, 1909. Truck driver, union steward, 544 organizer. Figured in the great strikes of 1934 and 1936 that ended the open-shop regime in Minneapolis and made it a union town. Married.

EMIL HANSEN

Plasterer, bus driver, truckman. Born in Denmark, 1906. Joined drivers union in 1928. Remained faithful member during the years when Minneapolis unions were weak. With the rise of 544 from 1934 to 1941, he has been one of the most active fighters in the struggle. Union organizer and trustee. Married, 2 children.

CARLOS HUDSON

Born in Minneapolis, 1908. Graduate of the University of Minnesota. Paid his way through college working summers as a freight laborer. Editor of the Northwest Organizer and the Industrial Organizer, 544 official newspapers, and well-known contributor to the national labor press. Married, 2 children.

CONTINUED ON BACK

IN MEMORIAM: GRANT DUNNE

In 1917 the United States went to war. Grant Dunne went overseas, was wounded, gassed, spent months in the hospital close to death. In 1931, the United States plunged into the depression. This time, Grant Dunne went to fight for the working class. He left a good job as an estimating engineer to become a union organizer. In 1941, when the national administration again turned toward war, Grant Dunne was indicted for this trial. The frail physique of the wounded veteran has been exhausted by his heroic union struggles. The return of war and the ordeal of this trial preyed upon his thoughts. He committed suicide on October 4th. Thousands of Minneapolis workers will never forget Grant Dunne's great heart and unselfish spirit.

[1944]

GEORGE NOVACK, *Nat'l CRDC Sec'y* and WARREN K. BILLINGS in San Francisco.

WARREN K. BILLINGS

Urges Workers and Liberals to Help Free the Eighteen

Warren K. Billings, framed with Tom Mooney in 1916, spent 23 years in San Quentin prison. Billings, Mooney and several others were accused of responsibility for an explosion which killed ten spectators during the 1916 "preparedness parade" in San Francisco. Prior even to the investigation of the crime, the district attorney publicly stated that the persons to be convicted were Mooney and his associates. Mooney, Billings and a number of other labor organizers had earned the undying hatred of the San Francisco reactionaries by their militant labor activities.

Billings was the first to be convicted. He was found guilty on the testimony of a known thief who repudiated his own story a few years later. In spite of the admission of perjury on the part of this main witness, Billings remained in prison until he and Mooney were finally pardoned by the governor of California in 1939.

Since his release, Billings has devoted his time to fighting for the freedom of other labor prisoners. He is a member of the National Committee of the Civil Rights Defense Committee and in the forefront of the fight to free the 18. Reprinted below are excerpts from the speech delivered by Warren K. Billings on the Minneapolis Labor Case at the San Francisco Civil Rights Defense Committee meeting May 3, 1944.

". . . This is an attack upon the entire labor movement, and it must be met with united action of all labor."

"The best fighters for the working class have been subjected to frameups by the capitalist class and its agents. This is certainly true of the 18 in the Min-

neapolis Case. We can see clearly through that frameup.

"All these frameups follow a similar pattern. Just as in the case of Mooney and Billings, just as in the case of Sacco and Vanzetti and just as in the case of the seamen King, Connor and Ramsay here on the West Coast, these men were not prosecuted for any crimes they have committed nor for any acts against the government but for their militant trade union activities. These men were leaders and members of militant trade unions. That is the real reason why they were framed.

"We ought to remember that there is not only the case of these 18 but also that of Kelly Postal, the Secretary-Treasurer of Local 544—CIO, who is serving time in Stillwater State Penitentiary on the charge of "embezzlement." All Postal did was transfer the funds of his union from the AFL to the CIO when the members decided to go over to the more progressive CIO union. He did not use a penny for himself but was railroaded to jail simply because he carried out the will of his union. All frameups are rotten but this is even more rotten than any other in the past.

"The prosecution of these 18 was a part of the drive by the enemies of organized labor to get rid of the most militant trade union elements in preparation for the war. Just as in the First World War the forces of organized capital were determined to frame up the most militant unionists like Mooney and myself here in California, so with the approach of the Second World War they set out to frame up the Minneapolis teamster leaders.

"This is an attack upon the entire labor movement and it must be met with the united action of all labor. That is why it is so important for every class conscious worker to fight for the freedom of the 18 and for the repeal of the Smith "Gag" act.

I'LL HELP IN THE FIGHT!

JAMES T. FARRELL, *Chairman*
Civil Rights Defense Committee
160 Fifth Ave., N. Y. 10, N. Y.

Here is my contribution of $.....for the MINNEAPOLIS PRISONERS PARDON & RELIEF FUND.

Name .....

Address .....

City & State.....

☐ *I am writing to the President asking for a full pardon.*

[1944, Dec]

CIVIL RIGHTS DEFENSE COMMITTEE

160 FIFTH AVENUE • NEW YORK CITY • CHELSEA 2-8735

NATIONAL COMMITTEE

Dewey Albinson
George Baldanzi
Prof. Joseph Warren Beach
William Rose Benet
Warren K. Billings
Alice Stone Blackwell
Theodore Brameld
John Chamberlain
Sarah T. Colvin
Kenneth G. Crawford
Elloues Day
Gabriel De Angelis
Thomas De Lorenzo
Margaret De Silver
Dr. John Dewey
Prof. Emmett E. Dorsey
John Dos Passos
W. E. B. DuBois
Zara DuPont
Charles D. Egley
James T. Farrell
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Jules Geller
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Charles Rumford Walker
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Margaret West
Edmund Wilson
Frances Winwar
A. L. Wirin
Prof. E. W. Zabriskie

JAMES T. FARRELL, Chairman
JOHN DOS PASSOS, Vice-Chairman
GEORGE NOVACK, Secretary

THIS CHRISTMAS HELP LABOR'S PRISONERS!

Dear Friend:

Twelve members of Minneapolis Truckdrivers Local 544-CIO and of the Socialist Workers Party have been in prison now for over ten months, solely because of their labor activities and political opinions. Six others were released on October 20th.

The imprisonment of these eighteen under the vicious Smith "Gag" law makes the Minneapolis Labor Case the most important civil liberties issue in recent years. Already over 350 unions and other progressive organizations representing more than 3,500,000 members have supported the work of the Civil Rights Defense Committee.

As the enclosed leaflet shows, the Minneapolis Labor Case directly involves you and your democratic rights. Our campaign to free the prisoners and repeal the Smith "Gag" Act is a campaign to defend the hard-won rights of the entire American people.

Ever since the eighteen went to prison the CRDC has provided relief for their wives and children. Without this aid the families of these persecuted labor leaders would suffer great hardships and privations. Today the high cost of living makes feeding and clothing their unfortunate ones an ever-increasing problem for the Committee.

HELP US TO MAKE THEIR CHRISTMAS CHEERFUL!

Please send your contribution to the Civil Rights Defense Committee, 160 Fifth Ave., New York.

Sincerely yours,

John Green
President, Industrial Union of Marine & Ship-Building Workers-CIO

Geo. Baldanzi
Executive Vice-President Textile Workers Union-CIO

Julius Hochman
General Manager, N. Y. Joint Board, Dress & Waistmakers Union, ILGWU-AFL

Roger Baldwin
Director American Civil Liberties Union

James T. Farrell
Novelist

Allan S. Haywood
President, United Transport Service Employees-CIO

John Dewey
Philosopher and Educator

Warren K. Billings
Famous Labor Prisoner

Endorsed by THE AMERICAN CIVIL LIBERTIES UNION and THE WORKERS DEFENSE LEAGUE

CIVIL RIGHTS DEFENSE COMMITTEE

160 FIFTH AVENUE • NEW YORK CITY • CHELSEA 2-8735

NATIONAL COMMITTEE

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Waldo Frank
Henry Fruchter
Jules Geller
Joseph Gilbert
Clement Greenberg
Mary W. Hillyer
Franz Hoellering
Rt. Rev. D. T. Huntington
Mark DeWolfe Howe
Rose Karsner
Judge Dorothy Kenyon
Dr. Antoinette Konikow
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Bella Kussy Milmed
Gorham B. Munson
Pauli Murray
A. J. Muste
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Dorothy Norman
Frank Nowve
Liston M. Oak
William Phillips
A. Clayton Powell, Jr.
Philip Rahv
Prof. Louis Raths
Morris Reiger
Rep. Paul A. Richie
Bernard Rifkin
James Rorty
Clarence Rust
Dr. Max Seham
Max Shachtman
Prof Meyer Schapiro
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Dr. Willard Uphaus
Adelaide Walker
Charles Rumford Walker
Charles C. Webber
Margaret West
Edmund Wilson
Frances Winwar
A. L. Wirin
Prof. E. W. Zabriskie

JAMES T. FARRELL, Chairman — JOHN DOS PASSOS, Vice-Chairman — GEORGE NOVACK, Secretary

September 27, 1944.

Dear Sirs and Brothers:

Eighteen members of Minneapolis Truckdrivers Local 544-CIO and of the Socialist Workers Party have been imprisoned now for over eight months. They are in jail solely because of their labor activities and political opinions.

The imprisonment of the 18 under the vicious Smith "Gag" law makes the Minneapolis Labor Case the most important civil liberties issue in the Second World War. Already over 300 unions and other progressive organizations representing more than 3,000,000 members have supported the work of the Civil Rights Defense Committee.

Ever since the 18 went to prison the CRDC has provided relief for their wives and children. Without this aid the families of these persecuted labor leaders would suffer great hardships and privations. Today, with the high cost of living, feeding and clothing their unfortunate ones becomes an ever-increasing problem for the Committee.

As the enclosed leaflet shows, the Minneapolis Labor Case directly involves you and the democratic rights of your union. Our campaign to free the 18 and repeal the Smith "Gag" Act is a campaign to defend the hard-won rights of the American labor movement.

We need your help! Please send your contribution to the Civil Rights Defense Committee, 160 Fifth Ave., N.Y.

uopwa
16-16

Fraternally yours,

John Green
President, Industrial Union of Marine & Shipbuilding Workers-CIO

George Baldanzi
Executive Vice-President Textile Workers Union-CIO

Julius Hochman
General Manager, N.Y. Joint Board, Dress & Waistmakers Union, ILGWU-AFL

James T. Farrell
Novelist

William Sylvis Hammond
President, United Transport Service Employees-CIO

John Dewey
Philosopher and Educator

Warren K. Billings
Famous Labor Prisoner

Endorsed by THE AMERICAN CIVIL LIBERTIES UNION and THE WORKERS DEFENSE LEAGUE

Aero-Notes

Vol. 5 — No. 1 WEDNESDAY, APRIL 3, 1944 Price 5 Cents

Victims Of Smith "Gag" Law

Local Supports Minneapolis Union

Chief Issue In Case Is One of Free Speech

Acting upon a motion submitted by Brother DeAngelis, the Executive Board of the Local Union unanimously went on record in support of the eighteen members of the Minneapolis Truck Drivers Union who have been convicted to extreme jail sentences under the infamous Smith Gag Law. While it is true that no member of the Board has any sympathy for the political views or philosophy of the convicted men, it is felt that the issue is one that is basic to the American way of life.

FREE SPEECH

These trade union leaders were persecuted solely because of their views and their militancy. The case is clearly one that involves free speech and their conviction in direct contradiction to the Bill of Rights. Both the A. F. of L. and the C. I. O. opposed the Smith act and in the very beginning of the agitation for it expressed their fears at the passage of legislation so deliberately designed to stifle the working peoples of America. During the debates in Congress Representative Martin of Colorado said: "It is enough to make Thomas Jefferson turn over in his grave. It is without precedent in the history of labor legislation. It is an invention of intolerance contrary to every principle of democracy."

The American Civil Liberties Union in its plea to President Roosevelt to veto the Smith Gag Act correctly charged that it would become an instrument of oppression against unpopular minorities and unorganized labor."

REVIEW REFUSED

The fears of men of good will were well founded, for even the Supreme Court three times refused ot review the case of these union brothers incarcerated for having dared to express their minority opinions in defense of labor. Petitions are soon to be circulated requesting President Roosevelt to grant an unconditional pardon to these fighters for freedom. The time they have already spent in jail since New Years will ever remain a blot on a country engaged in a war for democracy and freedom. People in our shop, it is expected, will sign the petitions and support the eighteen, for our members well know that "he who does not defend liberty everywhere defends it not at all."

Minneapolis Case

The Executive Board of Local 365 UAW-CIO in taking a stand on the case of the eighteen convicted members of the Minneapolis Truck Drivers Union makes it perfectly clear that its position was dictated by the desire to really keep free the concept—"freedom of speech."

The principles for which these Minneapolis brothers stand do not coincide with those of the Executive Board. The question is simply whether or not these people shall be permitted the right to express their particular views. We maintain that they have the right.

Published By Local 365 UAW-CIO
28-29 41st Ave., Long Island City, N. Y.

Civil Rights. . .

By James T. Farrell

James T. Farrell, noted novelist, Chairman of the Civil Rights Defense Committee and a member of the National Committee of the De Lorenzo Defense Committee, recently discussed on Radio Station WEVD the case of the 18 leaders of Minneapolis Truckdrivers Local 544-CIO who are now serving federal prison sentences under the Smith "Gag" Act which makes the expression of opinion alone a crime, in an address entitled Free Speech and Labor's Rights. *The text of his speech follows*

Congress, largely under the inspiration of poll-tax legislators, passed the vicious Connally Anti-Strike Bill and the equally notorious Smith "Gag" Act. The latter was enacted in time of peace. It is in flagrant contradiction with that provision of the Bill of Rights which states unconditionally that Congress may pass no law abridging freedom of speech. According to this law, freedom of speech has not merely been temporarily suspended in the name of an emergency; it has, in essence, been abrogated.

At the time of the passage of this Act, both the AFL and CIO opposed it. Representative Geyer of California declared: "This bill is an attempt to put an end to real democracy. It is an attempt to break the labor movement." Representative Martin of Colorado said: "It is enough to make Thomas Jefferson turn in his grave. It is without precedent in the history of labor legislation. It is an invention of intolerance contrary to every principle of democracy." After its passage, the American Civil Liberties Union pleaded with President Roosevelt to veto it, charging that it violated the Bill of Rights, and that it "would become an instrument of oppression against unpopular minorities and organized labor."

• SMITH "GAG" ACT AS AN INSTRUMENT OF OPPRESSION

Unfortunately for the cause of free speech, the prediction of the American Civil Liberties Union was fulfilled. As a result of a trade union conflict between Minneapolis trade unionists, who were also members of the Socialist Workers Party, on the one hand, and Daniel J. Tobin, President of the International Brotherhood of Teamsters on the other hand, the Minneapolis Labor Case has become a major item in the history of free speech and of the American trade union movement.

The Minneapolis union leaders opposed Daniel J. Tobin's attempts to impose his authority over their local. After a democratic and almost unanimous vote of nearly 4,000 members of their local, the union disaffiliated from the AFL and joined the CIO. Daniel J. Tobin made representations to President Roosevelt by wire. He was not ignored, for the *New York Times* of June 14, 1941 informs us that Stephen Early, Secretary to President Roosevelt, told the press: "When I advised the President of Tobin's representations this morning, he asked me immediately to have the Government departments and agencies interested in this matter notified."

• JUSTICE DEPT. RAIDS . . . WITHOUT JUSTICE

Significantly enough, the Government department which seemed to be most interested in this matter was the one which is described by the word — justice. Shortly after Mr. Early's statement to the press, agents of the Department of Justice raided the headquarters of the Socialist Workers Party, and also of the newly formed Motor Transport and Allied Workers Industrial Union, Local 544-CIO. There followed indictments against 29 members of this party and union local under charges of a conspiracy to commit acts to overthrow the government and the expression of opinion for the same purposes.

The first of these charges was based on an antiquated Civil War law directed against supporters of the slave owners' rebellion. The second was based on the Smith "Gag" Act. Concerning the political motivation of this prosecution, the American Civil Liberties Union has stated: "It seems reasonable to conclude that the government interjected itself into an inter-union controversy in order to promote the interests of the one side which supported the administration's foreign and domestic policies."

• LABOR AND LIBERALS MUST FIGHT

However, for the labor and liberal movement, this case cannot be closed. For in effect, it has established the Japanese doctrine of dangerous thoughts as the law of the land; the Holmes and Brandeis doctrine of "clear and present danger" has been totally ignored. The U. S. Supreme Court has implicitly upheld a law which abridges the right of freedom of speech. And the government has already cited this case as a precedent in its latest effort to deport Harry Bridges, the West Coast labor leader. Despite the fact that Harry Bridges is one of the leading labor supporters of the present Administration, despite the fact that he is an unqualified adversary of the Minneapolis defendants, he is not immune to the consequences of this conviction. No more evidence is needed to document the dangerous precedent established here.

The constitutional question of free speech has now been thrown in total confusion and it is even possible for an American citizen to be jailed if he reads in public either *The Declaration of Independence* or *The Second Inaugural Address* of Abraham Lincoln.

• FASCISM ATTACKS LABOR FIRST

The history of fascism teaches us that the first attacks made by reaction are against the labor movement, and usually against its extreme left wing. This has happened in the Minneapolis Labor Case. Further, the force of law and the police power has now been substituted for the use of reason, persuasion, argument in the case of those who defend the historic ideas of Marxian socialism. It should be clear that this kind of an attack against socialist ideas —that this jailing of socialist leaders can only help pave the way that makes it so much easier for fascism.

This kind of governmental action has the further effect of making men fearful and of aiding in the spread of that paralysis of will, of morale and of intellect which is already all too apparent in the present period of history. When the penalty of honest thinking is a cell in a jail, fewer men will dare to think. Under such conditions, political argument is made more and more the province of those who are unprincipled, dishonest and unscrupulous. For they have no need to try and tell the truth; they have no need to state what is their real conviction. They can, thereby, evade all such laws as these. But those whose political actions are principled cannot take this course. They must either be silent or risk punishment. This is one of the most significant ways in which laws such as the Smith Act and prosecutions such as the Minneapolis Case, destroy the very normal fibre of men.

• "THE FIGHT MUST GO ON"

During the Lincoln - Douglas debates, Abraham Lincoln declared: "The fight must go on. The cause of civil liberty must not be surrendered at the end of one or even one hundred defeats." Tonight, I wish to reaffirm this sentiment. The Minneapolis Case has become the major focus in the fight for civil liberties in war-time America.

Following the [illegible] of the Supreme Court's [illegible] appeal on this case, the Civil Rights Defense Committee is now conducting a pardon campaign to appeal to the President for executive pardon. It is asking the entire labor and liberal movement to support it in this campaign by signing its petitions for pardon, and by writing directly to the President, asking that pardon be granted.

The defense of the Minneapolis victims is, in itself, an attack on the Smith "Gag" Act. For this law remains hanging over the head of the victim in Edgar Allen Poe's story, *The Pit and the Pendulum*. The defense of labor's rights, the defense of free speech, the defense against fascism requires that this pendulum be put into a museum.

The Civil Rights Defense Committee, authorized representative of the 18, with national offices at 160 Fifth Avenue, N. Y., is conducting a national campaign to free the 18, repeal the Smith Act and provide relief for the 18 prisoners and their wives and children. Recognizing the vital importance of the Minneapolis Labor Case to the entire labor movement and the cause of civil liberties, scores of trade unions, civil liberties, Negro and fraternal organizations have contributed to the CRDC and have passed resolutions protesting these unjust imprisonments and urging unconditional Presidential pardon.

15 of the 18 leaders of Minneapolis Truckdrivers Union Local 544-CIO and of the Socialist Workers Party are shown marching to jail in Minneapolis on Dec. 31 to begin serving their twelve-to-sixteen-month prison sentences in the Federal Penitentiary at Sandstone, Minn. Three were sent to Danbury, Conn. Penitentiary.

[NAJ]

From ~~XXXXXX~~ Tuesday

The comrades in each place regard the national tourist as an inexhaustible well of knowledge, information wisdom and patience and forbearing. And they do keep pumping that well until it's in danger of going dry.

I now see what a practical salvation it is to insist upon taking a hotel room to which I can retreat occasionally to draw a breath and collect some thoughts and arrange impressions before sallying forth again.

Please tell Bert that I feel guilty for not having sent in a story for this week's paper. I had set the time aside for the chore and was ready to start on it when a matter or two arose which kept me busy until it was too late. But tell him that in ~~XXXXX~~ recompense I hope to stir up some good worker's correspondence from the cities I have visited.

The trip is going to bear very fruitful results for CRDC work. In every locality my visit has given a sharp impulse to activity, especially here in Youngstown which has been dormant far too long, despite the excellent opportunities.

Although I've only touched three places, I've seen and heard enough to get the feel of the party outside New York; its connections with the mass movement, its recruits. And what I've seen has only confirmed our general judgment that we are building an organization with unbounded prospects. It is a genuine and native workers movement and it is the freshly radicalized workers without previous political affiliations or experience, the best of the union militants, who are attracted toward us and joining. They are the finest kind of fresh, optimistic proletarians, many of them with lengthy records of struggle and leadership in the mass movement. I'll have more to say about that in my letters to Morris. I hope you're showing him the defense reports I send you, as I shan't have much time to duplicate information.

Many times I wish that you could be with me so that we could share this prized experience. Every New York functionary ought to be sent out from the island at least once a year in order to look over the lusty children in the family.

Bot

Edward F. Cullinane
Clerk Pro Tempore

Justices:
Clyde E. Stone
Walter T. Gunn
June C. Smith
Francis S. Wilson
Loren E. Murphy
William J. Fulton
Charles H. Thompson

SUPREME COURT
STATE OF ILLINOIS
Springfield

COPY

January 1, 1944

Mr. Leon M. Despres
Attorney at Law
77 W. Washington Street
Chicago 2, Illinois

Dear Sir:

In Supreme Court today, in case No. 27397 entitled

In Re: Albert Goldman,
an attorney

motion of amicus curiae as follows: to approve and confirm the report of commissioners and to strike the name of respondent from the roll of attorneys was allowed; the name of respondent is stricken from the roll of attorneys.

Respectfully yours,

EDWARD F. CULLINANE
Clerk of the Supreme Court

February 4th, 1944
Mohnton R.D. #1
Reading, Penna,.

Civil Rights Defense Committee
160 Fifth Avenue,
New York City, New York,.

Dear Miss Anderson;

In its refusal to review the case of the 18 imprisoned members of the Minneapolis Motor Transport and Industrial Workers Union, Local #544 C.I.O. and the Socialist Workers Party, the Supreme Court gives encouragement to the most rabid anti-labor forces in this country.

To convict and imprison trade unionists and members of a minority political party not for what they did, but, solely for their beliefs, is contrary to every principal of Democracy and in violation of the Bill of Rights.

Not only do we deem the Smith"Gag" Act as unconstitutional and should be wiped off the statutes books, We also appeal to the President of the United States to grant unconditional pardon and immediate release to the 18 Minneapolis prisoners,
We Remain,

Sincerely Yours,

John Torchia - Local Chairman Blacksmiths Union Local 197 Reading, Pa
Clarence Ferragamo Vice chairman I.A.M. Berkshire Local 682 " "
Elery Ockerider Jr. Secretary Railway Carmen of America Local 652 Rdg. Pennsy
Giuseppe A Bufalo Pres. & Local Chairman Reg lodge #2720 Brotherhood of Maintenance of Way Employees
George K. Parsons Vice Local Chairman Local 560 Boilermakers Reading, Pa.

CIVIL RIGHTS DEFENSE COMMITTEE
160 Fifth Ave., N.Y.C.

February 5, 1944

TO ALL LOCAL COMMITTEES

Dear Friends:

PRISON RULES & REGULATIONS

We have had several requests from friends of the Minneapolis defendants who are now in prison, asking us if they can write to them, send books, papers, etc. This letter is for the information of all Local Committees who may receive similar requests.

CAN ANYONE WRITE OR RECEIVE LETTERS?

Same regulations for Sandstone, Danbury, Alderson. Only a limited number of correspondents - mostly families - specified by the prisoners and approved by the prison boards may correspond with them. Any other letters will be returned to sender.

CAN ANYONE SEND BOOKS & PAPERS?

Sandstone, Minn. No books and papers can be sent to these inmates even by their families. Approved books and papers, however, can be purchased by the prisoners from the inside with their own money.

Danbury, Conn. Approved publications and magazines (including subscriptions to these) may be sent by anyone directly from the publishers. To secure this list, write either to the Bureau of Prisons, Danbury, Conn., or to us. Books must first be approved by the prison board, after which they can be sent directly from the publishers.

Alderson, W. Va. Do not subscribe to newspapers or magazines. The Institution will enter subscriptions upon the request of the inmate and we may then send the money covering these subscriptions. Two books a month may be sent through the publishers, which thereafter become the property of their library. However, this prison states that they have a large library and in order to avoid spending money for books which they have, it is suggested that no books be sent unless specifically requested by the inmate.

CAN GIFTS BE SENT AND WHAT KIND?

Alderson, W. Va. "Packages may be received containing the following articles: Knitting, tatting and crochet books, novelty pins, bobby pins, combs to be worn in the hair, victrola records, sheet music or music books (semi-classical and classical numbers, popular songs, but no blues or hill-billy numbers, photographs and snapshots of the immediate family. The jewelry should be inexpensive and sent only occasionally and in small quantities. If packages have no return address they will be destroyed.

Danbury, Conn. "Gifts are not permitted except at Christmas time, at which time special regulations and lists of items which might be received are issued each year."

No regulations received from Sandstone.

WHO CAN VISIT THE PRISONERS AND WHEN?

Sandstone and Danbury. Only members of the family or specifically approved visitors will be admitted.

Alderson. Only members of the immediate family are allowed visits without advance permission. Any other person must secure written permission from the Warden and present this permit upon admission to the institution. Three persons may go for a visit, which are from one to three hours in length. Visiting days are Monday to Friday inclusive with the exception of holidays and may be held either in the morning or afternoon.

WHO CAN SEND MONEY AND HOW MUCH?

All monies should be sent through the CRDC, since there are strict regulations concerning the sending and receiving of money. The CRDC is now engaged in a nationwide campaign to receive money for the relief of the prisoners and their families.

If there are any questions on other matters subject to prison regulations, please let us know.

Fraternally yours,

Evelyn Anderson

Asst. Secretary

CIVIL RIGHTS DEFENSE COMMITTEE
160 Fifth Avenue
New York 10, N.Y.

February 15, 1944

NEWS FROM THE PRISONERS IN THE MINNEAPOLIS LABOR CASE ABOUT THEIR FIRST WEEKS IN PRISON

------oOo------

Grace Carlson remained for several nights in the Hennepin County Jail after the 14 men prisoners were removed from there and sent to Sandstone. About her County Jail experiences, she wrote on January 7:

"I shall probably start for Alderson (West Va.) by car on Sunday morning...The Marshal's wife will be along as chaperone. I shall be glad to leave here, although friends have kept me supplied with books and clean clothes and even some candy.

"It is a great satisfaction to know how much our CRDC friends will do for us. When the prison bars close around one, it becomes terribly clear that 'no force on earth is weaker than the feeble strength of one.'"

James P. Cannon, from Sandstone, January 10: "The library here is small but there are enough books in it to keep me occupied for a while. I am not permitted to have books sent in to me from the outside unless I order and pay for them myself out of the small amount we are allowed to spend each month. Under such circumstances tobacco, oranges and candy come first! Perhaps a special ruling can be made in our case....

"James T. Farrell will be pleased to learn that five of his books are in the library. Only one was available, however. The rest are out - in the hands of other readers in our community.

"I got smoking tobacco and a corncob pipe from the commissary here, also oranges and candy - thanks to the money the CRDC gave me."

Feb. 3: "I have now finished my period of quarantine and am quartered in a dormitory with 51 others. I am one of the two orderlies and try to do this job, like every other, in good, workman-like fashion as a matter of principle.

Besides I think my co-residents, as well as myself, are at least entitled to a clean place to live."

(To Mrs. Cannon) "The New York winters aren't good for you. You should have gone away - it is cheaper than having pneumonia twice... When I come out, I want a rocking-chair to rock Mickey (his grand-daughter) in when I tell her stories and sing her songs at bed-time... I am thinking of making up some outline notes for my memoirs."

Alfred Russell, from Danbury, while still in quarantine, January 6: "We were driven up early this afternoon... My cell looks west. About 100 feet of level lawn drops into a valley into which I cannot see.

"A brief outline of the routine. Up before 6, clean away dust, make bunk to within .0002, through the cold air to breakfast. Back to building; lunch, then we are locked up while the count is taken; supper and sleep at 9:30. In between comes sick call in A.M. (I soon expect to learn precisely what treatment to expect for my ulcer), library after dinner, mail call and miscellaneous details. You would have relished seeing us - waiting for our name to come out at mail call. How glad I was to get your letter.

V.R. Dunne from Sandstone: "I am in a dormitory for 30 days of quarantine...I can see the sun rise and have a view of the quite rugged Minnesota countryside - outside! I help keep the dormitory clean and this will be so for the 30 days. I can buy at the commissary several different articles with the money given by the CRDC. I have access to the library. I am allowed only two letters a week so give my friends a greeting for me. One of the strict rules here prevents me from referring to any other inmate. A full understanding of this fact will explain to you why I talk about myself so much..."

Max Geldman, from Sandstone, to his wife who was in the hospital with a new-born son: "I hope that you are home by this time and that Michael has begun to adjust himself to life 'in a world he never made'. I have only the faintest of images as to how he looks. All I can visualize is you at the hospital and Sherry (his other child) at home. I might as well resign myself to not becoming acquainted with my son until he reaches the ripe age of a year and a little older."

Carlos Hudson, from Sandstone: "We were driven up here by auto early Saturday morning and by P.M. were registered, given our clothing and assigned to our quarantine dormitory. Visualize a two-story building a block square built around a courtyard, windows every six feet in two walls looking to the courtyard and to the outer grounds and you have Sandstone. We were assigned our quarantine clothes - coveralls, shoes, socks,

underwear, handkerchiefs...This afternoon we will be permitted to go to the library and each take out two books. For the first 30 days no visitors are permitted...We can buy such things as chocolate-bars, cigarettes, oranges, razor blades, toothpaste, etc."

Albert Goldman, from Sandstone: "I was given my first shot against typhoid and I had a somewhat severe reaction - getting a chill...I eat sparingly. I have received my coupon book and am now able to purchase oranges and chocolate bars to supplement the regular meals.

"It is somewhat difficult to write since so many things that could be described either humorously or seriously cannot be touched upon because of the rules."

Farrell Dobbs, from Sandstone: "I am writing on Wednesday evening, and my thoughts go back to those wonderful Wednesdays when we had a shish-ka-bob dinner (how good it would taste now!), then a movie or a Beethoven concert and the joy of companionship.

"I am all through with the innoculations and almost through with the interviews. We have been moved from the dormitory into a cell house. There is more privacy in the cell house...

"Indications are that I will be out of quarantine on January 28, after which I can have visitors. I will be allowed one hour visiting time per month. Up to four persons can visit me at the same time. All three of the children will be permitted to visit me...Send me word about the progress the Civil Rights Defense Committee is making on my case."

Felix Morrow, from Sandstone; January 30: "How one waits, out here on the edge of nowhere, for mail time! It can be compared only to what soldiers returning from the Pacific have told of the meaning of mail from home arriving out there in the loneliness and desolation. So write often...

"I am working on an outdoors labor crew, on the rock pile, breaking up stones for building roads. Such physical labor in the open air, after all these years, is quite an extraordinary experience. Fortunately this is not a typical Minnesota winter. The weather has thus far been mild.

"At first glance the library was very disappointing. But a little digging provides a happier prospect. It will be, necessarily, a year of literary reading; but that has a distinct value as a change.

"This evening I attended my first French class. Very good. A conscientious instructor, a small class, plenty of opportunity to speak and have one's pronunciation corrected.

"Today was my fourth day of work. Proudly I report that I have proved to have the physical endurance for it. I am working on the rockpile, feeding stones to a rock-crusher which provides material for road building. One pleasant aspect of this job is to be where I can see the woods and country-side and a river sparkling in the winter sunlight. On the walk to work we pass by the institution's piggery and a flock of screaming turkey - pleasant bucolic scenes. And every morning I watch the dark sky redden and lighten as the sun rises."

Grace Carlson, Alderson, W. Va.: "The trip down was not a happy one...We drove for much of the way along the same route which friends and I took last year, and even ate at some of the same places. We were on the road three nights. They (the marshal and his wife) stayed at hotels; I stayed in County Jails."

From Alderson, Jan. 30: "I moved to Cottage 2 last Monday night and got a job in the medical office. For a description of the cottages and cottage life, I would refer you to the book "I Knew Them in Prison" by former Warden, Dr. Mary Harris. There are photographs of the buildings, the campus, mountains, etc.

"My present routine is about as follows: I get up between 6:00 and 6:15 A.M. Before breakfast at 7:00 I dress, make my bed, dust and dust-mop my room. I am due at the medical office at 7:30 where I work until 11:55 A.M. Then, back to the cottage for lunch. I start working again at 12:45 and work until 4:55 P.M. We have supper at the cottage about 5:20 P.M. From then until 7 P.m. we can wash and iron, take baths, etc. At 7 P.M. we either go to the living room to play cards, sew, etc. or be locked in our rooms. I usually stay in my room to read. Lights are turned off at 9:30 P.M. Except for every other Saturday night when we go to a movie and Sunday when there is no regular work, this is my daily routine. We are all assigned certain reading periods in the library - 3 or 4 per month. Otherwise, we go to the library on Saturday afternoon for 15 or 20 minutes to take out books.

"My work at the medical office consists of filing case records, typing out lists of names, recording laboratory data, etc. It has the disadvantage of including a great deal of routine clerical work along with the responsibility of seeing that various things are done...The Warden asked me to spend less time in my room and more time with the other girls. She said that she put me in this cottage so that I could be a good influence on these younger girls...Most of these girls come from the mill towns and farms of North Carolina and Tennessee."

------oOo------

116 University Place
New York 3, New York
February 28, 1944

New Plaque Branches

Dear Comrades,

Your resolution on White-house picketing was considered by the N.C.

We decided against it. Our task in the struggle in behalf of the 18 imprisoned comrades is not so much to get a line of publicity in the press reporting people pinched for picketing the White-House (and it is not at all certain that this would get into the press. The capitalist press could keep this out as well as they kept out, by and large, the Minneapolis case) but to arouse the labor movement in the need of defending its democratic rights which are involved in this case.

There is no trick that we can pull which could substitute for the need of hard, day-to-day work of approaching the unions, of approaching the workers in the factories with our own literature explaining the case. No publicity we could get in the press -- if we got it -- in connection with a picket-line, would substitute for the need of patiently explaining to workers all the implications of the case which, I repeat, can only be done by hard, day-to-day work.

This is what motivated the Committee in its decision on your resolution.

Fraternally,

Acting National Secy.

HB/ds

CARNEGIE CHAMBER MUSIC HALL
154 West 57th Street, New York

THE CIVIL RIGHTS DEFENSE COMMITTEE
presents a

MUSICALE

Saturday, February 26, 1944 8:30 P.M.

ANTONIA COBOS, *dancer*
ELIZABETH KUEHN, *violinist*
JOHN COLMAN, *pianist*

PROGRAM

Sonata No 5 in A ..... *Handel*
Adagio
Allegro
Largo
Allegro
Elizabeth Kuehn, John Colman

Selection from "Carmen" ..... *Bizet*
Antonia Cobos

Idylle ..... *Chabrier*
John Colman

Bolero ..... *Moskowski*
Antonia Cobos

Sonata in D minor ..... *Brahms*
Allegro
Adagio
Un poco presto con sentimento
Presto
Elizabeth Kuehn, John Colman

INTERMISSION

L'Ile Joyeuse ..... *Debussy*
John Colman

Romance in A ..... *Schumann*
Antonia Cobos, Elizabeth Kuehn, John Colman

Poissons d'or ..... *Debussy*
John Colman

El Puerto ..... *Albeniz*
Antonia Cobos

Suite populaire espagnole ..... *De Falla*
El Paño Moruno
Nana
Canción
Polo
Asturiana
Jota
Elizabeth Kuehn, John Colman

Los Cuatro Muleros ..... *Popular*
Antonia Cobos

Subscription $1.10, Tax Included

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Affiliated with the Congress of Industrial Organizations

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Organization Director
THOMAS J. GALLAGHER

March 3rd, 1944

Mr. George Novack, Sec'y.,
Civil Rights Defense Committee
160 Fifth Avenue
New York, N. Y.

Dear Sir:

I firmly believe that we at home must ever be watchful if we are to preserve the liberty and democratic rights which have been the heritage of Americans through the Bill of Rights, and for which millions of Americans are fighting in all corners of the world.

Therefore, I consider it my personal duty as a responsible Union leader and as an American to strongly protest the recent decision of the Supreme Court of the United Stated refusing to consider the appeal of eighteen members of the Minneapolis Truck Drivers' Union.

To permit such convictions as these to stand establishes a dangerous precedent, stimulating a disastrous disregard of one of the essential constitutional doctrines safeguarding freedom of speech.

I care not for the thoughts or political beliefs of the eighteen persons convicted under the reactionary Smith "Gag" Act, but I strenuously insist that no American should be penalized for his thoughts or beliefs.

Furthermore, I cannot conceive of any decent American who would not rebel at the conviction of anyone under a law which would have made criminals of the patriots who signed the Declaration of Independence.

Sincerely yours,

John Green

JG:AB
nopwe 106

John Green,
President

116 University Place
New York 3, New York
March 8, 1944

A. Wood
Detroit, Michigan

Dear Arthur,

William F. Wardo will be in the Michigan area from Wednesday, March 29th to Sunday, April 2d, inclusive.

The schedule sets an arbitrary date of Friday, March 31st, for Flint. This date depends, however, on the arrangements you make locally between yourself and Frank. You should, if possible, give Frank a choice of the day he may want for Flint, and inform us of the arrangements.

This visit by Wardo gives the branch an excellent opportunity to hear a report on the work of the party, news about the 18 imprisoned comrades, as well as our perspectives for the next period. It will give you, furthermore, an opportunity to discuss and consult on various problems of work in your locality.

You should gear your activities so that you allow sufficient time for a branch meeting at which he will report.

* * *

Your report on the conference arrived just as this week's issue had gone to press, but I presume it will get a big play next week.

Comradely yours,

Acting National Secretary

MS/ec
Copy: To Flint.